

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER



HOWARD DAVIES
From birth to Bank,
I'm hooked on
Manchester City
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OF SPORT



COLIN MONTGOMERIE
It's time to get out
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RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON
The children
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ALAN COREN



His story is out
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WIN A CANON HOME OFFICE SYSTEM
WORTH £1,900
ENTER BY 2. P12

Hijackers face trial in Britain

By Bill Frost
Arthur Leathley
and Michael Evans

THE Government was resisting pressure from Tory backbenchers last night to expel seven Iraqi dissidents who were being held after the hijack of Sudan Airways Airbus with 199 people on board was brought to a peaceful end at Stansted airport.

The hijackers, who were apparently armed only with knives and imitation weapons, gave themselves up to Essex police after releasing all the passengers and crew during almost eight hours of delicate negotiations.

They immediately sought political asylum and are expected to be tried in Britain. The maximum penalty for air piracy is life imprisonment.

As police interrogated the hijackers, it emerged that family members were among the Airbus passengers. All were seeking political asylum, fearing persecution should they return to Baghdad.

Six women, believed to be related to the hijackers, were being held for questioning and two children, also thought to be family members, were in "police care".

Senior ministers said that forcing the hijackers to return to Sudan, where the hijack started, would effectively lead to their deaths in a country which has close ties with Iraq.

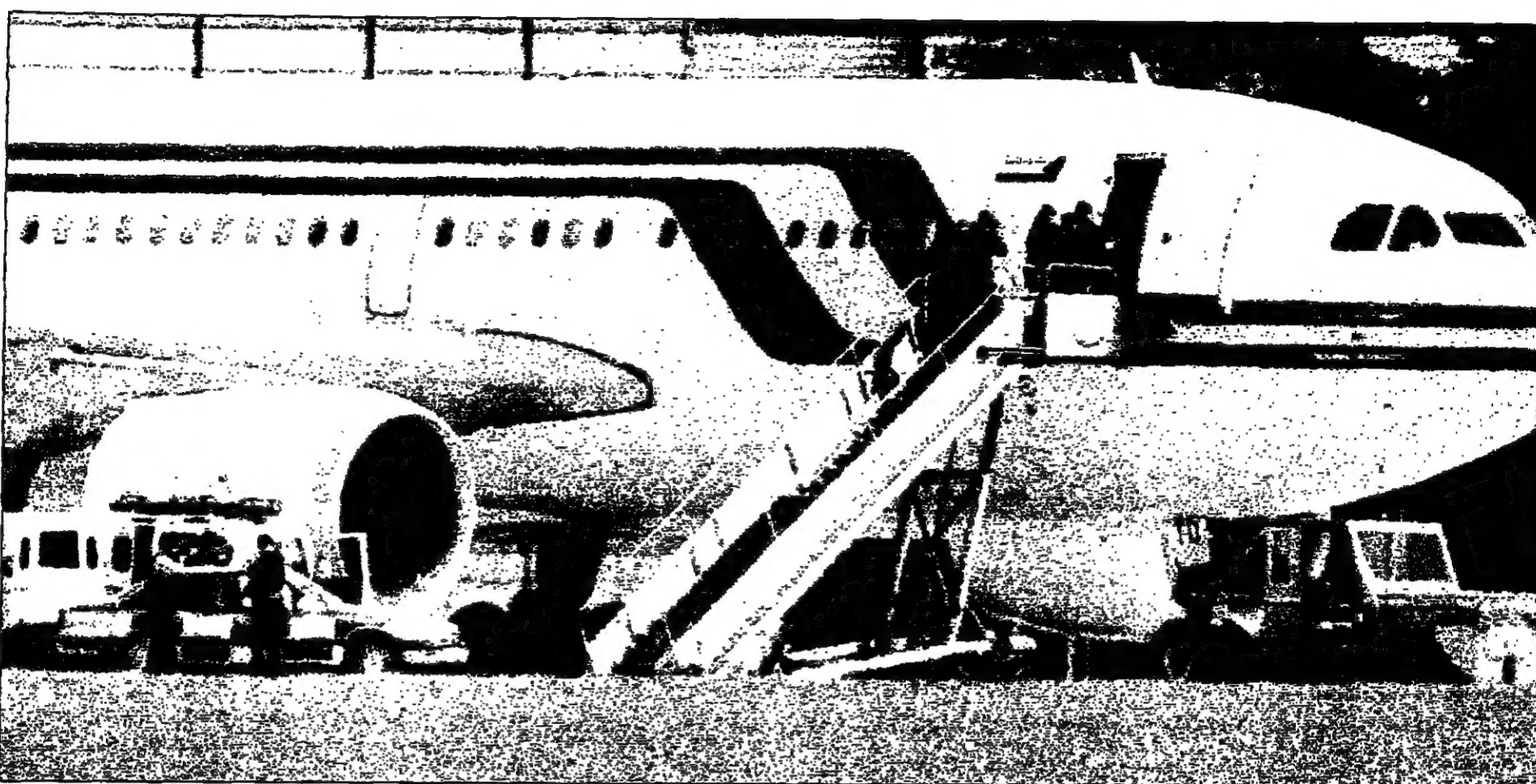
One minister said: "We will take tough action against these people and we will not tolerate terrorism, but this must be handled through the normal rules of justice and not by some despotic regime. It is extremely unlikely these people will be sent to Sudan or Iraq."

Ministers confirmed that the hijackers could face a maximum life sentence in Britain.

Britain's relations with Sudan are poor, because of claims by London that the Sudanese Government is sponsoring international terrorism. "Sending these people to Sudan would be as bad as sending them to Iraq," a Foreign Office source said.

However, David Howell, the Tory chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said the hijackers should be deported.

He said: "Hijacking is a horrendous crime and hijackers must be dealt with with the utmost severity. There must



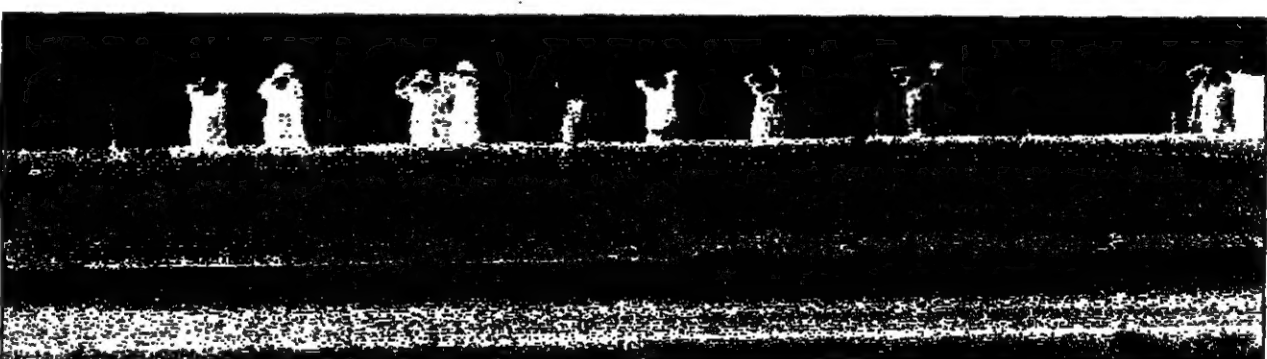
Armed police board the aircraft, above, at the end of the hijack. Below: A group of passengers, arms raised, disembark. Pictures: ANTHONY UPTON/FRANCIS DIAS

be no concessions, the very hint of a concession is a guarantee that some other people down the line — some innocents — will be murdered." If the Government failed to expel them, he said, hijackers would see terrorism as an easy way to gain asylum in Britain.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*, Mr Howell said: "If the word gets round that the quick way to asylum is three years in jail and then you're out, and in the country where you wanted to get to, that would be absolutely disastrous to the whole policy towards asylum seekers."

Ministers tried to head off a potential political row by making it clear that any asylum application would not be dealt with until criminal proceedings had taken place, although it remained unclear last night exactly when that stage might be reached.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, were at the heart of urgent discussions on Monday night after the Foreign



Office was first told of the hijackers' demands. John Major, at his home in Huntingdon, was also kept closely informed of developments as aviation agencies and police set in motion contingency plans for dealing with a hijacked aircraft.

The Home Office said that under the 1970 Hague Convention, dealing with "unlawful seizure of aircraft", Britain was obliged to do all it could to help a plane in distress.

The decision to allow the plane to land at Stansted,

however, was taken by John Burrow, the Chief Constable of Essex, after consultation with the airport authorities, the Home Office said. Suggestions that the Government had changed its policy over accepting hijacked aircraft were rejected by ministers. In 1985, the Government made it clear that Britain, in compliance with an internationally agreed counter-terrorism policy, would refuse to allow hijacked aircraft to take off after landing in this country.

The hijack of the Sudan Air A310 ended without bloodshed

when the seven high-ranking Iraqis freed their hostages and gave themselves up to armed police. After emerging from the cabin they were ordered at gunpoint to lie face down on the tarmac. Between 6.25am and noon all 179 passengers had been allowed to walk free by their captors — marking a successful outcome to the first hijack to end on British soil since 1982.

After a search of the jet, police said they had found a number of knives and some replica firearms. But there was no trace of high explosive

or hand grenades, as had been reported in Cyprus, to where the plane diverted after taking off for Amman, in Jordan, from Khartoum. It refuelled in Larnaca before flying to Stansted.

Mr Burrow paid tribute to the plane's pilot. He said that Captain Abdul Hamid Hidirbi had landed at Stansted without charts — "a considerable achievement."

Mr Burrow said the English-speaking captain, who negotiated with police on the hijackers' behalf, had covered himself in credit. "We have to

take our hats off to this man."

United Nations sanctions have meant that there have been no international flights in or out of Baghdad since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1989. Iraqis would not have been able to fly directly from the capital, Baghdad, direct to Khartoum, but would have to go via Amman. All Iraqis need exit visas to leave the country. These can often be obtained for heavy bribes.

Last night it was claimed in Khartoum that airport staff knew two days before Flight 150 was hijacked that "something was likely to happen". But intense security failed to prevent the hijacking.

Republic of fear, pages 2, 3
Leading article, page 13

Control to pilot: we owe you a large milkshake

PART of the dialogue between Stansted control tower and the aircraft's captain, Abdul Hamid Hidirbi, was broadcast last night.

7am — Cockpit: They [the hijackers] are not fundamentalists. They don't belong to any political party or terrorist group. They are ordinary people, persecuted by the Saddam regime. They need protection for their families.

Control: OK. Thank you for that. That is all perfectly understood and believed. Could they please release another batch in any case?

11.30am — Control: People must leave the aircraft one by one. Nobody else is to leave the aircraft until I say so. Understand? OK?

Cockpit: Copy. Control: They must come out slowly with their hands in front. If they are carrying any weapons or explosives they are to hold them out in front, place them at the bottom of the steps and leave them there.

Cockpit: The hijackers will release their families first. Their families will leave first, then the females and children. [The families then slowly left the aircraft followed by the hijackers themselves. The crew stayed on board].

1.20pm — Control: Captain, before I tell you to come out, can I just say we think you've done a marvellous job and I think we owe you a large milkshake.

Cockpit: I do owe you a large thanks for being patient with us. And thank you very much for your co-operation.

Control: That is not a problem. Likewise. OK. Thank you. Goodbye.



"It's the law in England — everybody gets released early"

Early release fiasco freed 537 prisoners

By Richard Ford

THE Prison Service admitted last night that 537 prisoners were freed as a result of the early release debacle — six times the number previously publicly admitted.

Richard Tilt, the Director-General, told the Home Secretary of the true scale of the scandal engulfing the 136 jails in England and Wales only last night. The average period for which prisoners have been released early is estimated at three months.

Mr Tilt, who cut short his holiday in Italy to deal with the fiasco, also disclosed that a further 400 inmates were due to be released during the next few days until Michael Howard intervened late on Friday to stop the moves. A further 4,000 inmates can expect to have their release brought forward after recalculation of their sentences.

The Home Secretary told a press conference that he had been advised by lawyers that it would be impossible to return the freed 537 to jail and that he was seeking further legal advice on the matter.

The Home Secretary, with Mr Tilt at his side, said he had first learned that 537 prisoners

rather than the earlier figure of 86 had been freed from jail after new guidance was sent to governors on August 15.

"I first knew that [figure] this evening. I have made it clear that I regard this as a very serious event."

But Mr Tilt is not to be sacked from the £77,000-a-year post he took up full-time four months ago. It was made clear that Mr Howard did not demand his resignation and that Mr Tilt had not offered it. Last night Whitehall sources suggested that he had only just kept his job because ministers believe it will be difficult to find a credible replacement and are concerned about staff morale.

Mr Howard said: "Not every failure necessarily leads to resignation. [Mr Tilt] has apologised for it. He has indicated to me that he is putting in hand steps to ensure that it does not happen again."

Mr Tilt has launched an internal Prison Service review of the procedures for communicating with ministers.

Leading article and Letters, page 13

Five bodies sought by Belgians

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIAN police yesterday began digging up a garden near Charleroi after Marc Dutroux, the paedophile and confessed killer, told them where to find five more bodies.

Police sealed off the garden, a shed and a wooden house at the village of Jumet, where Bernard Weinstein, an accomplice whom Dutroux, 39, admits killing, once lived.

Michel Bourlet, the prosecutor in charge of the case, flew to the site by helicopter. "Dutroux is cooperating in the investigation," he said. "But I have the impression that he is making us go around in circles."

Two eight-year-old girls starved to death while held in captivity at Dutroux's house in Charleroi. Two other girls were rescued.

To carry out their search at Jumet, the Belgian police are using dogs and British "ground radar" employed in the hunt for bodies at the home of Fred and Rosemary West in Gloucester.

Princess appoints City accountant

By Emma Wilkins

THE Princess of Wales has appointed a new private secretary to manage her financial affairs and to help shape her public image after her divorce.

Michael Gibbins, 53, a former senior partner at KPMG, the accountants, began his new job yesterday. Married, with one son, Alexander, two, he is a part-time magistrate and keen golfer. Educated at the Sorbonne, he joined KPMG in 1961 and became a specialist in Eastern European finances, travelling often to the former Soviet Union.

"He is a sensible, hard-working chap who was very highly thought of here," a former colleague said. "He always used to work incredibly long hours and did lots of travelling."

One of Mr Gibbins's first tasks will be to help the Princess to invest her divorce settlement, said to be about £15 million. He will also take over the general running of her finances, for which she is now responsible for the first time since her marriage. During her marriage she submitted all her accounts to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The position of private sec-

retary was vacated in January, when Patrick Jephson, a former Royal Navy officer, resigned. His departure came after that of Geoffrey Crawford, the Princess's press secretary, who left last November because she failed to inform him of her *Panorama* interview.

Jane Atkinson, the Princess's media adviser became the third of her senior staff to leave when she abruptly resigned last month, six months before her contract was due for renewal.

The Princess, who today loses the title HRH when her divorce becomes final, is the subject of guidelines to be issued tomorrow by Buckingham Palace on how people no longer having the rank of HRH should be addressed. An announcement will appear in the *London Gazette* marking the formal implementation of the Princess of Wales's decision to surrender her title.

The pages of the *London Gazette* were used officially to announce, in 1937, that the Duke of Windsor would be allowed to use the style HRH while his wife would not, which deeply offended him.

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The nation of fear where thousands just want to leave

THE TIMES WEEKLY

SAS and spy Crisis for so many for so



THE SAS and the Special Air Service have been in the news since a report in the Sunday Times that they were being disbanded. The report, which was later proved to be false, caused a major crisis in the British government. The SAS is a highly trained and elite unit of the British Army, known for its operations in the Middle East and elsewhere. The report that they were being disbanded was a major blow to the British government, which had been relying on the SAS for many years. The crisis was caused by a combination of factors, including the fact that the SAS was a small unit and the fact that it was a highly trained and elite unit. The British government was forced to respond to the report by stating that the SAS was not being disbanded and that it was a highly trained and elite unit. The crisis was a major test of the British government's ability to handle a major crisis and it was a major victory for the British government.

Britain builds reputation for tackling terrorism

THE British reputation for tackling terrorism has been built up over the years, and it is now one of the most respected in the world. This reputation has been built up through a combination of factors, including the fact that the British have been successful in tackling terrorism for many years, and the fact that the British have been able to maintain a high level of security. The British have been successful in tackling terrorism because of their highly trained and elite units, such as the SAS, and because of their ability to maintain a high level of security. The British have been able to maintain a high level of security because of their highly trained and elite units, such as the SAS, and because of their ability to maintain a high level of security. The British have been successful in tackling terrorism because of their highly trained and elite units, such as the SAS, and because of their ability to maintain a high level of security. The British have been able to maintain a high level of security because of their highly trained and elite units, such as the SAS, and because of their ability to maintain a high level of security.

HLAKKONES

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Reports by Michael
Stephen Farrell, Kitchener

SAS and special Cabinet team swung into action as the hijacked plane headed for Essex

Crisis for which so many trained for so long

THE first warning that the Special Air Service's Counter Terrorist team was about to face a hijack drama came early on Tuesday when their personal beepers went off.

The Army's experts had trained many times for hijack scenarios but this time the call to action was real. When it became clear that the Sudan Airways Airbus A310 hijacked by seven Iraqi dissidents was bound for Britain from Cyprus, a government contingency plan that involves the SAS, the police, MI5, MI6 and all the relevant government departments, swung into action.

Cobra — the Cabinet Office Briefing Room — the Government set-up covering security emergencies, was activated in the early hours. It remained operational until the all-clear was given by an exhausted Essex Police negotiating team at lunchtime yesterday by which time the hijackers had given themselves up after releasing all the passengers unharmed.

In the end, the hijack did not require the services of the SAS team that would have left its base, Stirling Lines in Hereford, equipped with "flash-bangs" — magnesium-based concussion grenades that can paralyse a terrorist for five seconds — Heckler & Kock MP5 sub-machineguns and body armour. Instead, this hijack was to be resolved by patient negotiation.

Essex Police have acquired considerable skills in handling hijacks because Stansted, the scene of two previous hijackings in the past 20 years, has become the favoured airport for dealing with crises of this kind.

This latest drama began when Michael Herodotou, director of Civil Aviation in Cyprus and a veteran of several hijackings, decided that he had no alternative but to grant the terrorists' demands and allow the Sudanese Airbus to be refuelled at Larnaca Airport for the next

BRITISH FORCES



A mother and child leaving the plane

stage in its journey — to Britain.

The hijack had begun 20 minutes after the Airbus had taken off from Khartoum at 5.27pm British time. It was bound for Jordan's international airport at Amman with 186 passengers and 13 crew on board. When the Iraqis, reportedly armed with grenades and TNT, seized the plane, the Sudanese captain radioed the main Cairo control tower as it passed through Egyptian airspace and said he was in trouble.

The captain said he would have to land at Larnaca because he was running out of fuel. The hijackers refused to land in an Arab country.

Mr Herodotou was alerted at his home in Nicosia and initially told his staff at Larnaca control tower to refuse landing permission. Then he drove the 30 miles to the airport to take over negotiations. By then the plane had been circling over Larnaca for 45 minutes. "The pilot was

almost begging for fuel," Mr Herodotou said. He gave permission for the hijacked plane to land.

He added: "The pilot told us the situation on board the plane was under control but any refusal from us could irritate the hijackers and the situation could spin out of control."

"We decided that we had little choice but to let the plane land and refuel."

The hijackers had threatened to blow up the plane if the Cypriot authorities refused permission to refuel and it was the fear in the pilot's voice that convinced Mr Herodotou they were serious.

Negotiating through the pilot, Mr Herodotou urged the hijackers to free all the passengers and crew. One of the hijackers snatched the microphone from the pilot and, speaking in English, screamed: "Negative, negative, negative. We won't release anyone. Just give us the fuel."

The hijackers promised to free all the passengers and crew and surrender, if they were allowed to fly to London. Their only demand was political asylum.

The Sudanese Airbus left Larnaca airport at 10.50pm British time. The British involvement in the hijack drama was about to begin.

Once flight SUD150 had set a course for Britain, John Major and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, were informed of the hijackers' intended destination. Cobra, which is headed by Mr Howard, started work.

The hijackers wanted to go to Heathrow but the British authorities selected Stansted to bring the hijack to a conclusion.

The airport is preferred by the security services for handling hijackings because it is more remote than Heathrow and Gatwick, London's two major airports, and handles less air traffic.

Despite Stansted's official



One of the hijackers, left, and one of the passengers taken hostage, arriving at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, for treatment yesterday

designation by the Department of Transport as Britain's main "hijack" airport, pilots regard the idea as an unrealistic bureaucratic nicety. "If you have got a gun at your head, the designated airport is the one the hijacker tells you to fly to," one senior pilot said last night.

An hour before dawn yesterday, the rumble of jet engines and flashing red navigation lights on the horizon signalled the arrival in Britain of Sudan Air's hijacked flight.

The reception committee was already in place on the ground: heavily armed police, bomb disposal experts, negotiators, fire tenders and ambulances. By 4.28am, when the Airbus jolted to a halt close to

the giant hangar at the south end of the runway, the SAS counter-terrorist team was already on standby.

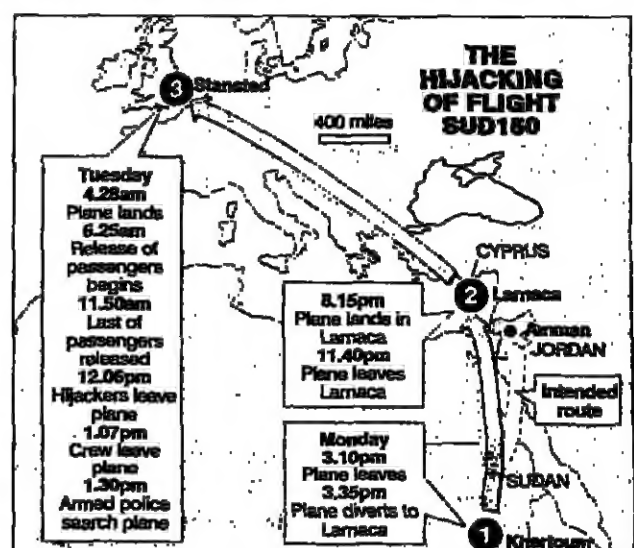
The mood of the hostage-takers had changed. Negotiations between police officers in the control tower and the Iraqis on board the jet made swift progress.

There were no more threats of violence against passengers or crew, only a willingness to bring the hijacking to a speedy and bloodless conclusion.

The hostage-takers asked for representatives of the International Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to be brought to the airport with Saïd Sayah, a prominent Iraqi exile in London. At

5.30am, a forward cabin door opened and a crew member was seen in discussion with negotiators at the edge of the inner security cordon of armed police officers. Soon afterwards stairs were brought alongside the plane and police marksmen took up position nearby.

It took just 1½ hours to persuade the hijackers to begin to release the hostages. A number of figures dressed in dark clothing and wearing balaclavas could be seen at the rear of the aircraft as the passengers began to disembark — at first the elderly, the infirm, women and children, then male passengers with their hands clasped above their heads.



Britain builds reputation for tackling terror

THE Sudan Airways hijacking is the third such incident to have ended peacefully at Stansted airport in 21 years. Britain has developed a reputation for never giving in to hijackers, while also demonstrating the expertise needed to bring a hijack to an end without bloodshed. The only occasion when Britain appeared to give in to terrorists was in 1970 when Leila Khaled, the former Palestinian terrorist, and an accomplice tried to hijack an El Al airliner from Amsterdam to New York. Her accomplice was shot dead by an Israeli

HIJACKINGS

security man and the pilot had to make an emergency landing at Heathrow.

Ms Khaled spent only a short time in Ealing prison before being released as part of an exchange for 310 civilian hostages from four airliners hijacked to Jordan by Palestinians.

The previous two hijackings which ended at Stansted were in 1982 and 1975. In the first, Saeed Madij, an unemployed television engineer, seized a British Airways jet on a flight from Manchester to London and demanded it be flown to Paris. He was armed with a toy pistol and imitation dynamite.

After the plane landed at Heathrow and the 40 passengers were allowed off, it took off again and flew to Stansted. The hijacker was told he had arrived in Paris and was arrested as he left the plane. He was jailed for seven years.

In 1982, an Air Tanzania Boeing 737 with 99 passengers was hijacked on an internal flight. The plane was first diverted to Kenya, then Saudi Arabia and Greece before landing at Stansted. After 26 hours on the tarmac, the passengers were released and the hijackers surrendered.

The US Government has

recorded more than 775 hijacks or attempted hijacks since the first recorded incident in Peru in 1931. There have been four other hijackings in the last ten years. In September 1986, 22 people were killed by terrorists at Karachi shortly before Pakistani security forces stormed a Pan Am Boeing 747. Four Palestinians had held the plane for 16 hours.

In October 1990, hijackers seized a Chinese Boeing 737 on an internal flight. The plane crashed trying to land in Canton, killing 128 people.

In March 1991, four Palestinians seized a Singapore Air Airbus on a 45-minute flight to Singapore. Singaporean commandos stormed the plane after nine hours and shot the hijackers dead. The passengers and crew survived.

In December 1994, four Islamic terrorists hijacked an Air France airliner in Algiers with 170 passengers and crew on board. French commandos stormed the plane at Marseille airport, killing the hijackers. Thirteen passengers and three crew members were injured in the assault.



Airport ideal for dealing with air piracy

THE Department of Transport has officially designated Stansted as Britain's main "hijack" airport.

Stansted is one of several airports regarded as secure and ideal for dealing with most acts of terrorism or hijacking, but it is the biggest and has been used most by police, security services and airline staff for training.

The holding pad near the maintenance hangar is in the ideal position, according to security experts. It is close to secure international communications links and is easily accessible by road. It even

STANSTED

has a line of trees where special forces can prepare to storm an aircraft and set up sophisticated monitoring devices.

The SAS routinely carries out practice assaults on all types of aircraft, learning their internal layout, how to approach without being seen and how to burst into the jet, lobbing stun grenades and, if necessary, killing the hijacker.

ers. But they always remain under the control of the local police chief — unless the Home Secretary gives authority for the military to take over.

All pilots, including the crew of the Sudan Airways Airbus A310, are instructed in how to deal with air piracy, an internationally recognised crime that most countries have agreed to outlaw.

All commercial pilots are trained to alert authorities on the ground immediately a hijack begins. Aircraft are fitted with an individual radio device known as a transponder. When this is triggered by a signal from the ground a series of pre-coded numbers identifies the aircraft to controllers on the ground. Pilots are told they should co-operate with the hijackers' demands. If possible, they should "advise" the gunmen to land at one of the designated secure airports, such as Stansted. But the safety of the passengers has absolute priority and if there appears to be any danger they should obey the hijacker.

Some air crew volunteer to undergo special training in coping with the stress should they become a hijack victim but most cabin crew find the "stress management" courses too demanding.

The Hague Convention of 1970 was designed to "bring about the abolition of havens for hijackers" by ensuring that every country had an adequate law for dealing with air piracy.

Britain clearly has such legislation and a sophisticated system for ensuring that anyone who hijacks a plane in Britain will not leave until the crisis is resolved.

Last night government security experts were questioning why the authorities at Larnaca airport had agreed to the hijackers' demand for the aircraft to be refuelled rather than hold it in Cyprus.

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Reports by Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia, Joanna Bale, Harvey Elliott, Michael Evans, Stephen Farrell, Richard Ford, Bill Frost, Michael Horsnell, Kathryn Knight and Adrian Lee

Most churchgoers say Prince should not become King

BY TIM JONES

A MAJORITY of regular churchgoers believe that the Prince of Wales should not become King because of his divorce, and their opposition would harden were he to remarry, according to an opinion poll published today.

The survey of 1,000 clergy and 840 lay people, disclosed on the day of the Prince's decree absolute, indicates that the Church of England could face division over his accession. There could be a rift between the laity, supported by the clergy,

and the bishops who appear to take a more liberal view of the prospect of a divorced King.

The poll was carried out by Gallup for the Protestant Reformation Society. Gallup asked whether the heir to the throne should become Sovereign and Supreme Governor of the Church of England if divorced. Fifty-four per cent of the active laity, defined as those who had attended a service in the previous month, opposed the idea. They were supported by 51 per cent of retired clergy. Of the general population, 43 per cent said

that they would not want a divorced monarch.

The poll received a response from only a quarter of the 114 English diocesan bishops, suffragans and assistants approached. But 76 per cent of those who did reply were "strongly supportive" of the divorced heir becoming King. Forty-five per cent of full-time clergy said a divorce would make no difference to the Prince of Wales becoming King; 40 per cent said they would object.

Gallup also asked: "Should the heir to the throne become monarch and Supreme Governor if divorced

and then remarried?" This was opposed by 52 per cent of bishops, 56 per cent of full-time clergy and 70 per cent of retired clergy.

The Protestant Reformation Society was established in 1827 to safeguard the doctrine and theology of the English Reformation. Many of its members are clergy who have become increasingly disenchanted by what they consider to be a decline in the traditional values and teaching of the Church.

The Right Rev David Samuel, president of the society, who left the Church because of the ordination of

women, emphasised that no one questioned by Gallup was aware that his organisation had commissioned the poll.

The survey showed a decline in support for the Queen's continuance as Supreme Governor of the Church of England compared with a similar survey 12 years ago. Also, there was less support for the specification in the Act of Settlement that the monarch must be a member of the Church of England. The greatest support, 71 per cent, was among active Church of England laity, against 60 per cent of bishops, 49

per cent of full-time clergy and 48 per cent of the population as a whole. The survey showed a marked decline in opposition to the ordination of women among bishops (24 per cent, down from 49 per cent in 1984) and full-time clergy (26 per cent, down from 46 per cent). On the question of homosexuality, there was a small reduction in the number of people in all groups who said that the Church should not approve of homosexual acts. This was most marked among bishops, with 52 per cent taking that view now against 63 per cent in 1984.

Blackmailer was caught while using confidential bank account in Austria

Man jailed for poison threat to UK dairies

BY LIN JENKINS

A FAILED businessman who attempted to extort £250,000 from British dairy companies by threatening to contaminate their products with poisonous micro-organisms was jailed for three years by an Austrian court yesterday.

The British authorities have begun an inquiry into their failure to extradite him to Britain.

Michael Just, 37, from Nottinghamshire, was arrested when he went to withdraw money from an account he had opened in Austria for the proceeds of the blackmail. He can serve his jail term in Britain, and accepted the sentence because his wife is in custody here awaiting trial.

"I want to return to Britain as soon as possible. My wife is in jail there and expecting a child. Otherwise I would be appealing against the sentence," he said.

The prosecution asked for the statutory three days to decide whether to challenge the length of the jail term.

The prosecution said Just had used his degree in microbiology and virology at Nottingham University to hatch the plot after running into financial difficulties. After leaving university he had set up a firm specialising in methods of processing sewage, but it went bankrupt.

He then set up an information service for Internet users, but his debts grew, he was threatened with the loss of his house and his fourth child was due. It was then that he decided to turn to crime. Just told the court: "I was depressed when I got the idea to make a lot of money very quickly using criminal methods."

In early May Just obtained by mail order cultures of the bacteria *Yersinia*



Just: wants to serve sentence in Britain because his wife is pregnant and in custody as she awaits trial here

Enterocolitica, which can cause digestive problems, intestinal infections and diarrhoea. He said it was "much feared" in the dairy industry. "It would not have affected me personally because I do not drink milk, but milk is an important product," he said. Just then made his blackmail demands to the five companies, in London, West Mercia, Northumbria and

Suffolk. They were to show their willingness to pay in an advertisement in *The Times*. The money was to go to an anonymous savings account he had opened at the Credit-Anstalt bank in Vienna via the Internet. Just told the court: "That seemed to me the most secure method because it is all anonymous in Austria."

He wrote several times to the companies at one time

including a product carton painted black and on another one that was contaminated with the bacteria. He also threatened to go public.

Herr Schoen said the companies went to the police after tests showed that the bacteria was present in what they had been sent.

The Vienna court convicted Just on a charge of "serious blackmail". His wife Nora, 42,

is in detention in Britain awaiting trial.

West Mercia police, who coordinated the investigation into the blackmail said yesterday that they were not told he was to stand trial in Vienna. A Foreign Office spokesman said he could only imagine that the extradition order did not arrive in time. "It is something we are following up," he said.

Beach hunt inquiry turns to computer

Norfolk police last night employed a sophisticated computer system to collate information on Tom and Jodi Loughlin, the children who disappeared from the beach at Holme next the Sea more than a week ago.

Colin Sheppard, deputy chief constable, said initially that the non-computerised system being used by his officers had been adequate. After a meeting between senior members of the force yesterday, Superintendent John Hale, the officer leading the hunt, said that the Holmes major incident computer would help to process the "vast amount of information" relating to the inquiry. There had been 700 calls from the public over the weekend.

Track blamed for crash

Substandard track and signals and inept safety measures were the underlying cause of the Watford rail crash earlier this month in which one woman died, according to information leaked to the Liberal Democrats. David Chidgey, the party's transport spokesman, said the Government could have averted the accident by upgrading the section of line. Railtrack and the Health and Safety Executive said Mr Chidgey's comments were speculative.

Tories choose banker

A senior non-executive director of N M Rothschild & Sons has been selected as the Conservative candidate for Home. Robert Guy defeated a former minister and several sitting MPs to win the relatively safe Tory seat, which has a majority of 12,268. Some 170 people applied for the seat, including Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, Hartley Booth, who succeeded Margaret Thatcher as MP for Finchley, and Michael Stephen, MP for Shoreham.

SNP changes logo

Scottish Nationalists have voted to abandon their new logo, a thistle with a star at the heart, which many felt resembled a demeaned Bugs Bunny. Provided by a design company at a cost of £2,000, it was originally adopted in April at the party conference. Instead an internal ballot has decided to revive the classic "doodle darning" or darning cloth, a stylised thistle which was the party's emblem during their successes of the 1970s.

£5,000 for shorn hair

A man who hacked off his former girlfriend's waist-length blonde hair was ordered to pay her £5,000 compensation. David Rawlings, 42, an electrical engineer at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service by Winchester Crown Court. He admitted common assault on Hayley White, 24, a psychology student, who had left him after an 18-month relationship.

Parcelforce strike threat

Parcelforce staff may take national industrial action over the sacking of a worker who was caught on closed-circuit television throwing the plastic top of a cardboard tube across the factory floor. Two sorting centres have already been affected by a 24-hour stoppage over the incident. Stephen Fox, 24, of Bristol, was sacked after a disciplinary hearing for the throwing incident, smoking on duty and for a charge of wilfully delaying the mail.

Murder girl reward

An anonymous businessman has offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer of Caroline Glachan, 14. He put up the four-figure sum after hearing the tearful plea for witnesses made by the girl's mother, Margaret Glachan. The girl had been her only child. Her body was found in the River Leven, near Dumbarton, on Sunday. Police said yesterday that there had been a poor response to the appeal for information.

BT complaint upheld

Complaints that a BT advert promoting its Friends and Family service was misleading have been upheld by the Independent Television Commission. The advert, featuring Bob Hoskins, led many viewers to believe that they could get an immediate 10 per cent discount off their bills. In fact, customer discounts started with the next bill so phone users had to wait up to three months for the reduction to take effect. The commission received 38 complaints.

Covent Garden blast

Tourists ran for cover after a fireball blew a manhole cover into the air in the pedestrianised Piazza in Covent Garden, central London. A pregnant woman was believed to be among six people needing hospital treatment. Witnesses said the cast-iron lid shot up more than 15ft propelled by an orange fireball. It is believed an electrical fault caused the blast. The Piazza was sealed off after the incident.

Jobs for the boys

Boys aged between 6 and 9 are paid an average of £1.70 a week for jobs around the home, compared with £1.60 a week for girls. However, the girls are the ultimate winners, receiving an average of £1.30 in gifts, while boys receive only £1.60 unearned income, according to a young savers' survey by the Halifax Building Society. A spokesman said: "Most save more than they spend."

Teachers vote to strike in row over 'violent' boy of 10

BY DAVID CHARTER

TEACHERS at a junior school voted yesterday to strike after their governors twice reprimanded a ten-year-old pupil expelled for violent behaviour.

Matthew Wilson was allowed back to Manton Junior School in Manton, Nottinghamshire, even though teachers claimed he turned up at the gates last term wielding a baseball bat. Governors yesterday described Matthew as a "bright and nice boy" and his mother, Pamela Cliffe, said he was just a "normal lad".

However, all seven of the nine teachers at the school in the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers voted to walk out, saying that

Matthew refused to obey instructions, was violent towards other pupils and had thrown things at staff, leaving them afraid for their own safety. The union said its members will not turn up next Tuesday if Matthew is there.

Bill Skelly, head teacher, first expelled Matthew in June after what the union described as "a year of chronically disruptive behaviour". Governors refused to back the decision. Matthew was back in class for less than a month before Mr Skelly banished him again for refusing to sit where he was told in assembly, picking on other children and running off during the day.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, said: "Despite receiving a

strong warning letter about his future conduct, the boy reappeared at the school gates during the afternoon break on July 5, behaving in a menacing fashion, wielding a baseball bat."

Ms Cliffe said yesterday: "I think it is pathetic. I don't think teachers should be able to pick and choose who they teach just because they can't control a normal lad like Matthew." She denied that her son had threatened teachers with a baseball bat.

Eileen Bennett, chairwoman of the school governors, dismissed claims that Matthew's behaviour was chronically disruptive as "utter rubbish". She said: "He is a challenge, but there are an awful lot of children who are a challenge."



Matthew: said by school governors to be a "bright and nice boy" and by his mother "a normal lad"

Mandelson agent cooked up travel expenses claim

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE man who helped Peter Mandelson, Labour's top spin doctor, to become an MP has been caught fiddling his expenses as a councillor.

Bernard Carr, Mr Mandelson's agent when he won his Hartlepool seat in the 1992 general election, claimed for a visit to London when he was already there on an expenses-paid trip as a contestant in a cookery competition.

Mr Carr's colleagues at Hartlepool council gave him a £150 advance to travel to the capital to attend a housing trust meeting. They did not know that he had stayed out after taking part in a *Daily Telegraph* contest to find the worst cook in Britain. When local papers publicised his third place with a turnip and fish soup with fishfinger croquettes, Moss Boddy, a fellow Labour councillor, queried his expenses claim.

The visit was investigated by John Walton, Hartlepool chief finance officer, who ruled that the claim was fraudulent. Mr Carr, 41, chairman of the Hartlepool Labour Party and the council's housing committee, has since repaid the money and agreed to refund a

similar amount for a previous trip to the Tudor Trust housing group. No further action is planned by the authority.

However, local Conservatives said they may seek a police "investigation". Ray Wells, chairman of Hartlepool Conservative Association, said: "This man involves public money. Mr Carr should resign immediately."

Mr Carr said yesterday that he accepted the official's findings. He added: "No fraud or intended fraud was committed. I genuinely believed the meeting in London was appropriate. This is a matter of opinion and in the view of the council officers it was not eligible. I agreed with their judgment."

He had paid back the money immediately. Mr Carr, who is single and works full-time for his party, had been nominated for the "Baker's Cuisine" contest in the newspaper by his long-time friend Vicky Andrews. He attended the cookery final at Brown's Hotel on Friday, August 16 but his meeting with the housing group was not until the next Monday.

Mr Carr had told officials that he was attending the competition but claimed he had not stayed over in London. However, the investigation discovered that Mr Carr was at the Dolphin Hotel in London over the weekend.

Mr Walton told the council that the expenses were not justified. He said that the council's involvement with the Tudor Trust was tenuous.

Bryan Hanson, leader of the council, said the Labour group would be meeting Mr Carr to discuss the matter.

Mr Carr's expenses claim was queried by a Labour colleague

Police used CS spray on mother

POLICE used a CS spray to force a mother to let go of her ten-month-old daughter who was being taken into care, it was disclosed yesterday (Paul Wilkinson writes). An inquiry has been ordered.

Officers of the same force, Cleveland, have also been asked to explain why they used the spray on two children aged 13 and 14 who had barricaded themselves in a bedroom of a local authority home. None of those sprayed suffered lasting ill-effects.

Bob Fitts, the chairman of social services in Middlesbrough, where both incidents happened, said: "It seems that the sprays were not used as an instrument of last resort where an officer was in physical danger, but as a method of control, a 'quick-fix' solution, which is in total breach of the guidelines agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers."

Barry Shaw, Chief Constable of Cleveland police, denied that the guidelines had been broken.

Since trials began 6 months ago, CS spray has been used by Cleveland police 115 times, the Metropolitan Police 68, Northumbria 43 and North Yorkshire 10.

Just the ticket as Oasis see sales rise without lead singer

BY PETER COOPER

AMERICAN fans of Oasis were under-terred by the absence of the lead singer Liam Gallagher at last night's opening concert of the band's US tour in Rosemont, Illinois. The promoters said that only a few ticket holders had taken up an offer of a refund, and sales had actually increased.

The singer stayed at his home in St

John's Wood, London, but denied the group was on the verge of splitting. He left the house briefly to buy a pint of milk at a local newsagent, and said: "You know the story; it's all in the papers. I've got to move house."

The tour was thrown into turmoil on Sunday when he refused to board the plane to Chicago 15 minutes before take-off. The 23-year-old star said he was returning to sort out "personal

problems" and finalise house-moving arrangements with his fiancée, the actress Patsy Kensit.

Andy Cizun, vice-president of the concert division of Jam Productions, and account manager for Oasis, said: "New sales are easily outstripping any returns. I find it very surprising. People just want to see the band."

Creation Records earlier issued a statement saying the singer wanted to

sort out a "personal matter" and would be joining the band later in the three-week tour. A spokesman said Gallagher was merely recovering from laryngitis. The band are also booked to play MTV's Video Music Awards in New York. MTV said yesterday they still expected him there. For the moment, the lead vocals are being taken by his brother Noel, the band's songwriter and guitarist.

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Queen of fights on child porn



Persistent abuse statutory cas

Outspoken crusader has won over her subjects but infuriated defenders of protocol and libertarians

Queen of Sweden fights on against child pornography

FROM DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

QUEEN SILVIA of Sweden defied her critics yesterday to address the world's first congress against the sexual exploitation of children, unrepentant about the furor she has raised by telling Swedish politicians to ban child pornography.

The Queen, whose emotional approach to the issue has infuriated constitutional experts while endearing her further to the people, insisted on taking the microphone for an unscripted intervention at the Stockholm conference attended by 130 nations.

A mother of three, she has made the battle against child exploitation a personal crusade, embarrassing the Government of a country that allows its citizens the right to possess child pornography that would be outlawed in most of the civilised world.

Queen Silvia, who agreed to be patron of the five-day congress, was warmly cheered when she made an impromptu address after sitting through several hours of earnest speeches from diplomats promising to tackle the problem. "It is an important day for us," she told the representatives. "You have got an agenda of action in your hands. Please take it into your hearts. I am going to follow very closely what is going on here. I am very proud and happy that you have come."

Queen Silvia's first foray into the debate was at a summit on the rights of children held in Paris last November. Organised by Valerie-Anne Giscard d'Estaing, it was attended by 26 first ladies and several female members of royalty. A mood of tension and embarrassment filled the meeting as Queen Silvia described how she had watched sequences showing paedophiles committing serious sexual offences against children. Boris Yeltsin's wife was reported to have gazed down the table and Queen Noor of Jordan squirmed.

Undaunted, Queen Silvia



Mme Giscard d'Estaing organised a summit

took her campaign on to Swedish television in the summer, agreeing to an interview in which the usual platitudes about her children's progress were replaced by a strong attack on Sweden's record on pornography. Misty-eyed, she said watching the films had made her weep. "You cannot compare it to adult pornography," she told viewers. "It is torture of the worst kind. It is the worst thing I have ever seen."

Queen Silvia accused politicians of dragging their feet and said that they should be compelled to watch child pornography. She said the name and photograph of anyone who sexually abused a child should be published throughout Sweden. The public, who have backed children's charities campaigning for the laws to be tightened, were delighted, but champions of Sweden's liberal traditions were infuriated by her suggestion.

The Swedish press — which has refused to publish photographs of paedophiles in crime reports, claiming that their children's privacy would be damaged — was particularly stung and the journalists' union has led attacks on the

Queen. "The media has kicked her in the head," a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said.

The union fears that investigative journalists could be hampered if the freedom to possess material is curtailed by the law.

Queen Silvia's remark about dragging feet was seen as especially injudicious as politicians have already begun to change the constitution, but according to the rules they have to wait for another general election and a vote by the new parliament before the change can be implemented, probably in 1999.

Stig Hadenius, a professor at Stockholm University and prominent political scientist, said: "Almost 99 per cent of the public are against child pornography so it is very easy for her. But as a queen she should be silent because it is a very complex legal question."

The Royal Palace in Stockholm said yesterday: "As with all royalty, when they talk about something that is important to themselves, they are prepared for criticism. I don't think she was surprised. From the beginning, it has been a very personal reaction as a mother."

Per Erik Astrom of Swedish Save The Children said: "If you see that type of film, the natural reaction is to become angry. She was very upset. We are talking about strong sadistic material."

It has been illegal to make and distribute child pornography in Sweden since 1980. Films of obscene acts between humans and animals can still be freely bought.

The Swedes have been overwhelmed by a sudden late surge in attendance at the conference. With 1,500 delegates and journalists arriving, the shadow of the Belgian paedophilia scandal hangs over the congress hall.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said: "The recent abominable events in Belgium have shaken the world and deeply shocked people."

Timothy Kirkhope, a junior Home Office Minister, was applauded at the conference as he called for more countries to follow Britain's example and be prepared to extradite their own nationals suspected of sex crimes against children in developing countries.

Sri Lanka, stung by estimates that 30,000 child prostitutes were working in the country, urged Western governments to send it names of known sex tourists so they could be stopped. But children's charities accused it of trying to offload its share of the blame to protect its tourist trade, instead of promising to close down the brothels.



Never lost for words: the common-born Queen Silvia speaks several languages and her intelligence has won wide respect even among Sweden's republicans

The royal bride whose wisdom saved monarchy

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

SHE is regarded by many as the saviour of Swedish monarchy. Queen Silvia has rarely put a foot wrong since marrying King Carl Gustaf XVI in 1976. They first met four years earlier when she was chief hostess for the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, and he was a bachelor prince with an unfair reputation for being slow-witted.

The new Queen soon won plaudits, even among republicans, as a dignified and intelligent escort. Every New Year, the royal couple appear on television introducing an hour of film clips showing their state visits and official duties. The King endearingly forgets names and places, and she gently corrects him. After one broadcast, the Queen's suddenly youthful appearance led to unconfirmed reports that she had received a facelift.

Queen Silvia, now 52, is the common-born daughter of a German businessman. Her dark beauty is attributed to her Brazilian mother — she spent part of her childhood in Sao Paulo. As an interpreter, she learnt seven languages, including sign.

The royal couple have three children, the Crown Princess Victoria, Carl Philip, and Madeleine. Two years ago there were puzzling allegations about a residential

course where Carl Philip, then 15, was being prepared for confirmation into the Lutheran Church.

A Swedish newspaper reported that, during a coed dance-building game known as "the washing line" — in which teams were encouraged to remove their clothing and tie it into a long rope — a number of over-excited participants stripped naked and licked jam off each other.

The Queen was said to have asked psychiatrists whether her shy son could have been traumatised. The Royal Family issued an ambiguous statement that "obviously anything that causes distress to children must be stopped".

The King has rarely intervened in politics, although he has annoyed Sweden's traditional rival, Norway, by attacking their fishing policies on environmental grounds.

The Swedish Royal Family has had no real power since the First World War, although it has remained a symbol of the nation, particularly praised for preserving unity during the Second World War. Its last political functions involving the forming of governments were given to the Speaker of Parliament in 1970. The succession passes to the first-born child regardless of sex, making Victoria, 19, the heir.



**World Congress
against
Commercial
Sexual
Exploitation
of Children**

Stockholm, Sweden
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The recent Belgian paedophile scandal has led to a surge in attendance at the congress in Stockholm

Persistent abusers face statutory castration

BY GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHILD molesters who reoffend face mandatory castration under a Bill expected to become law this week in California. While certain to face challenges in court, the law is also likely to be imitated elsewhere as politicians respond to mounting public indignation over repeat sex offenders.

Under the law, anyone convicted twice of sexually abusing a child will have to choose between surgical castration or periodic injections of a drug proven to inhibit sex drive. Pete Wilson, Governor of California, who has made draconian new punishments a centrepiece of his administration, said that he hoped the law would "help in the difficult struggle to control the deviant behaviour of those who stalk our young".

Convicted child molesters routinely reoffend almost immediately on being released from prison, one of the Bill's sponsors claimed yesterday. Bill Hoge, an assemblyman from Pasadena, compared the problem and his solution to dealing with disease.

"If you have smallpox in the country or some other kind of life-threatening epidemic disease, the law is clear on the fact that you can't refuse treatment," he told *The New York Times*.

Offenders would receive regular shots of Depo-Provera, a drug produced by the Upjohn pharmaceutical company that lowered testosterone levels and thus sex

A Briton has been arrested in Albania and charged with sexually abusing two young boys. The 34-year-old man, said to be from Wiltshire, was arrested on Sunday in a hotel in the Adriatic resort of Durres, west of Tirana. He has denied the charges. Adrian Xhejlli, a state prosecutor, said yesterday that the divorced man had befriended the boys, aged under 10, because they reminded him of his own children, who live with his former wife in London. The British Embassy in Tirana said it had sent an official to talk to the arrested Briton, who is being held in jail. He faces a maximum sentence of five years if convicted.

drive in men. It had already been used successfully in Sweden and Germany. Mr Hoge said.

Civil rights groups and medical experts alike have given notice that they would oppose the law as unconstitutional and simplistic. "It's not enough just to say, 'Let's lock 'em up and castrate the bastards', however horrible their misdeeds," Fred Berlin of Johns Hopkins University said.

"Some people you just lock up. Some people you lock up and treat. Some people you treat. It's complicated."

Governor Wilson is unlikely to be discouraged. Tapping

into a vein of public outrage over crime, he has already staked his political future on such unpopular — and often unenforceable — initiatives as the "three strikes and you're out" law, which requires life sentences for repeat offenders of any kind, and Proposition 187, which would deny state education and healthcare to illegal immigrants.

A 75-year-old Australian accused of 850 child sex crimes was remanded in custody by a Brisbane court yesterday. The charges against the man, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, cover a period from the 1960s to the 1980s. Queensland police said further charges were expected against the man, who is also accused of sex offences overseas.

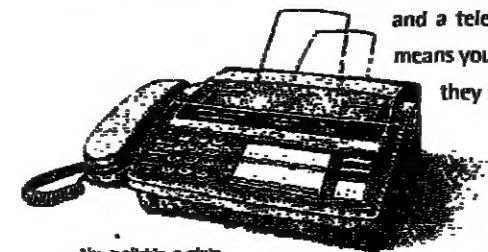
Meanwhile a child sex abuse trial in Germany entered its 234th day yesterday. In three linked court cases in Mainz, 24 adults from two extended families in nearby Worms are variously charged with raping or sadistically torturing children of the two families, or hiring them out for others to abuse. Many acts are alleged to have been filmed. Sixteen children are alleged to have been abused in 200 instances.

The first case began in November 1994 and the others in April 1995, and all the accused have remained silent. The difficulties of taking evidence from children are prompting the German authorities to consider changes in the law.

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Neglect of diabetes 'causing misery and costing billions'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of patients are facing blindness, amputations and kidney failure because their diabetes is not properly treated, specialists said yesterday.

Neglect of the condition is causing misery and imposing a heavy burden on the NHS. Diabetes occupy one in ten hospital beds and cost the NHS more than £2 billion, according to a report.

More than two million people are estimated to suffer from diabetes, but up to half of them have never been diagnosed. Doctors said that complications caused by the condition could be reduced by half with better monitoring.

A report by the King's Fund Policy Institute, commissioned by the British Diabetic Association, says that the true cost of treating diabetes is at least £1 billion more than previously thought at £2.4 billion — 8 per cent of the hospital budget.

It says non insulin-dependent diabetes — the type

A national hotline to help doctors find intensive care beds for critically ill patients was announced yesterday by the Government. The service, to be introduced by the winter, will ensure that patients are sent to the nearest available specialist unit. It will extend the existing service covering 100 sites in the South East and 33 hospitals in the North West.

normally controlled by diet, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of diagnosed cases — is wrongly considered the mild form of the disease. As a result patients and doctors neglect early signs of complications. Patients with the standard Type 1 diabetes, which requires daily insulin injections, are better treated because they have regular check-ups.

Harry Keen, consultant

diabetologist at Guy's Hospital, London, said: "One in ten people over 70 will be affected and the disease is responsible for half of all medical causes of amputation. The risk of blindness is ten times higher, of kidney failure 16 times higher and of heart attack or stroke two to five times higher."

George Alberti, Dean of Medicine at Newcastle University, said that most complications of diabetes could be avoided. Those at greatest risk were the over-45s who were overweight, sedentary and with a family history of the condition.

The report calls for screening of high-risk groups to detect diabetes and annual reviews of known cases to identify early signs of complications.

□ The UK has the worst record in Europe on reducing cholesterol levels among patients who have survived a heart attack.

The most neglected risk factors were cholesterol and blood pressure. The UK had the highest proportion of patients with raised cholesterol at 70 per cent, followed by Italy at 58 per cent.

Results from a study of 5,500 heart patients presented yesterday to the 18th congress of the European Society of Cardiology in Birmingham show that half had not reduced their risk of a further attack.

Professor David Wood, lead investigator of the EuroASPIRE study, said that a third of further heart attacks could be prevented if risk factors were managed more rigorously.



The facade of the re-created church in Devon before it was set alight in a re-enactment of a Civil War battle

Replica church burnt in Civil War spectacle

A MOCK-UP of a country church was burnt to the ground for charity yesterday in a spectacle watched by thousands.

Flames leaping 100ft could be seen for miles as the 50ft timber replica of St Michael's Church in Great Torrington, Devon, was built to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the original building's destruction in the Civil War.

The church, which was being used to store gunpowder, blew up during a battle in 1646 with 200 prisoners

inside. Monday night's blaze was the culmination of three days of "Fire and Steel 350" in which 5,000 members of the Sealed Knot re-enacted a pitched battle.

The fire was lit by Thelma Alexander, president of the local Cavaliers group, which erected the building. The idea was the inspiration of her husband Larry, who died aged 68 last year.

It is hoped the burning of the mock-up, complete with imitation organs, pews, and bell tower, will raise £50,000 for charity.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Addict used football for burglary

A burglar who robbed elderly women after kicking a football into their gardens and asking if he could have it back was sent to a young offenders' institution for five years. John Hudson, 20, used the ball as an excuse to enter homes in Middlesbrough and steal purses and house keys. Teesside Crown Court was told that he needed money to satisfy his heroin addiction. He admitted burglary.

Village is razed

Bulldozers began to raze a chapel, a pub and the 200 terraced houses of Arkwright Town near Chesterfield, a Victorian mining village blighted by leaking methane. Its 400 residents were moved last autumn to a new village near by. Part of the site is to become a memorial park.

Ship shape

A 90ft-long impression of an Anglo-Saxon burial ship is to be recreated in a proposed £6 million tourist centre at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk. It will be cast from the imprint of a ship, believed to have been that of Raedwald, king of East Angles, found on a site beside the river Deben.

Egg cracks it

Residents of Eigg launched an appeal on the Internet with the slogan "Let's crack it" to raise £800,000 to take the Inner Hebrides island out of private ownership. Eigg is being sold for £2 million by a German artist, who bought it 16 months ago for £1.6 million.

Death-charge PC

A policeman is to be charged with causing death by dangerous driving after a girl passenger was killed in his unmarked car. PC Adrian Ward was driving Shelly Simmonite, 15, home when he collided with a van at Maltby, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

Homes flooded

Shops and homes were damaged after storms hit the North East. Houses were flooded and motorists abandoned cars in waist-high water in Stockton-on-Tees. Roads were closed in the Middlesbrough area and production at some British Steel plants was halted.

Solicitor's thefts

Noel Horner, 53, a former solicitor who was once confronted by the television investigator Roger Cook, admitted stealing more than £300,000 from clients. Truro Crown Court remanded him for sentencing. Horner was struck off after clients had claimed a loss of £3.4 million.

Wrong turning

A motorist did a U-turn on the northbound carriageway of the M6 near Killingworth, Cumbria, then drove 20 miles in the wrong direction as police gave chase alongside him in the southbound carriageway. A 58-year-old man has been charged with drink-driving.

Toil and trouble

Coastguards spent an hour searching the seas off Brixham, Devon, after a member of the public reported hearing desperate cries at night. The source was finally identified as an open-air production of *Macbeth* at the Berry Head Country Park near by.

CORRECTION

A weekend in Paris offer that was trailed in some editions yesterday is restricted to readers in the Republic of Ireland.

Graffiti vandals use the Internet to find sites for eyesores

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

GRAFFITI vandals are using the Internet to exchange information on sites for them to deface. They also write critiques of their "art".

Railway stations, pub walls and roadsides are among the so-far blank spaces identified by gangs using signatures such as Crooks, Euro, Crash and Eggs on Internet

pages. The potential sites range from Neasden and Woolwich Dockyard in London to Leicester city centre and the M25 at West Byfleet, Surrey. One entry simply says: "The North is full of exciting possibilities."

The bill for removing graffiti already runs into hundreds of thousands of pounds for local councils. Yesterday Mike Scanes of

Graffiti Management, which advises councils and businesses about removal, said that the daubings were being glorified. In Surrey, a magazine has been set up to celebrate recent work and to interview practitioners.

Mr Scanes said: "If you don't tackle the problem with both prevention and clean-up, then the cost to the community is greater. Graffiti

is the thin edge of the environmental wedge: where you get graffiti, it sends a message that anything goes. You get muggings, urban decay and violence."

In Sheffield, where one vandal was jailed this year for five years, the city council spends £250,000 a year tackling the problem with a special squad of workers to remove graffiti. They are called the

Grimebusters. Philip Andrews, a council spokesman, said: "While we are tackling it quite successfully, it's alarming to know that there's an army declaring war on our walls."

The jailed man, Simon Sunderland, 23, who used the "tag" name Flato, had defaced walls and public buildings across much of the city centre. Graffiti supporters are using their Internet sites to campaign for

his release. London Underground spends an estimated £10 million a year on trying to prevent and remove graffiti. A spokesman said that the main target of the gangs was the trains. "We have had some success with our new coatings that make the graffiti wash off, but it makes the vandals determined to find somewhere else. It seems that they all know where to go."

Shephard promises GNVQ rethink despite pass record

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE number of students who passed so-called vocational A levels doubled this year, according to results published today, but almost half of those registered failed to complete qualifications in the expected two years.

More than 80,000 students were awarded the General National Vocational Qualification at one of its three levels. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, hailed the increase from last year's 44,000 as evidence of rising achievement in schools and colleges.

But Mrs Shephard expressed concern about the length of time many students were taking to complete their courses. More than 42 per cent of those sitting advanced-level tests had not been awarded the full qualification by the end of last month and the completion rate was lower among younger students.

Officials said that the figures included part-time students, who were expected to spend longer than two years on their courses, and others who went straight into employment. But Mrs Shephard said that there remained ques-



Shephard: concerned about "manageability"

tions about the "manageability" of the courses, which are crucial to the Government's attempts to meet national education and training targets.

Mrs Shephard yesterday promised new proposals on the courses in the autumn. "The qualification is very new and there are still aspects that need to be improved, both on assessment and manageability."

GNVQs were launched in 1993. The Education Secretary said that this year's public examinations had produced an excellent batch of results and early indications from

national curriculum tests suggested that performance in primary schools was also improving. The latest returns from schools, however, showed that hundreds of governing bodies were heading their heads' call for a boycott of the first primary school league tables. The tables, to be published in March, will include test results and teacher assessment. Test scores are available from external markers, but the National Association of Head Teachers has urged governing bodies not to submit the assessments, in protest at Mrs Shephard's change of heart on the publication of results.

Mrs Shephard said she was confident that only a handful of schools would go through with the boycott. But it was disclosed that 30 per cent of junior schools had failed to meet the July deadline to submit teachers' assessment of pupils at age 11.

□ The Government may act to reduce the number of examination boards. Mrs Shephard said. She dismissed the idea of creating one government-run organisation, but said that ministers were considering a suggestion that some of the boards could be merged.

Degree vacancies, page 18, 19

Trevor McDonald to host TV awards gala

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE ITN newscaster Trevor McDonald is to follow in the footsteps of Jonathan Ross and Billy Connolly by hosting a television awards gala night. He has been chosen to front the 1996 National Television Awards at the Albert Hall.

Mr McDonald, who last week was criticised by the Independent Television Commission for being "too friendly" in his interview with the Prime Minister, said yesterday: "I am delighted to be hosting such an important night for British television. It is wonderful finally to see a programme that reflects the views of the public."

The two-hour special pro-

gramme will be broadcast on the ITV network on October 8. Although Mr McDonald is hosting the event, he could find himself a winner as he has been nominated in the most popular newscaster category.

Kim Turberville, of Indigo TV, which produces the show, said: "Trevor was an ideal person as the awards are the viewers' choice and he is one of the most watched faces on British television. Trevor has vast experience at thinking on his feet in a live situation." There are 14 award categories, including best quiz show, best actor and actress and best television drama.

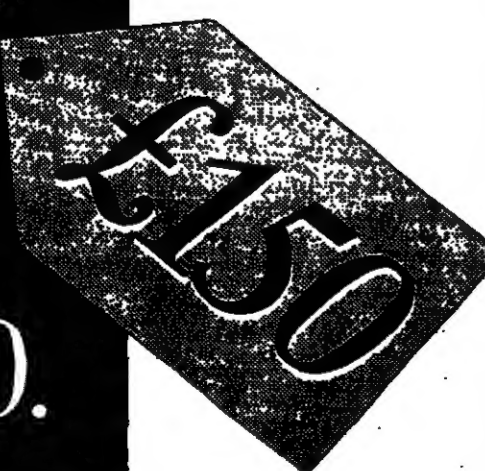
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Democrats march behind one-man band to silence chorus of dissent

THE danger of this convention for President Clinton was always that it would prove to be a non-event. With the ritual roll-call of the states still to come tonight and the President's acceptance speech not due until tomorrow evening, it is too early to say whether that danger has been averted.

Yet the man who needs few lessons in campaigning has already moved to milk an essentially non-occasion for all — and rather more than — it is worth.

As Al Gore, the Vice-President, has scurried about in Chicago, no doubt hoping to build up support for heading the ticket in four years' time, the main focus has not been on all the schmaltzy mood music



In seeking to become the first elected second-term Democratic President in nearly 50 years, Bill Clinton is running an almost solo political effort, writes Anthony Howard in Chicago

coming out of the convention centre. The President's four-day whistle-stop journey across the electorally crucial Midwest has played better, both in newspapers and on television, than anyone in the White House can have dared to hope. It has lent him a certain homespun quality that has done him his normally plastic image no harm.

But there is a price that had to be paid and the White House no doubt cheerfully foresaw that, in organising this rival attraction. The Democratic Party is now visibly a one-man band with everything else subsumed to the need to get Mr Clinton re-elected in November.

Even to his supporters, he is the brave little Dutch boy with his

finger in the dyke — standing alone against a flood of reactionary policies flowing from the legislative into the executive branch. The trophy of having the first elected second-term Democratic President in nearly 50 years is something the party is prepared to settle for, and that is what Mr Clinton is banking on in mounting what is an almost brazenly solo political effort.

It is not, of course, how Harry Truman played it in 1948. But then, as the product of a big-city machine, he was a party man in a sense that Mr Clinton, the loner, has never been. There have been just a few signs in the past day or two of a readiness to criticise the current Republican legislative record; but

the 1996 Democratic candidate still has a great deal of ground to make up before he matches the performance of "Give 'em Hell Harry" inveighing against the "do nothing" Congress of almost half a century ago.

The irony is that the man who came to office vowing to break "the gridlock" on Capitol Hill is now caught in the trap of appearing to be the principal agent likely to perpetuate it. The President's new strategist — the politically ambidextrous Dick Morris — may proclaim his belief that Mr Clinton can win back control of both the House and the Senate next November, but he is about the only person defiantly to make such a prediction.

The more loyalist Democrats tend to believe that, by signing the Republicans' Welfare Bill, despite the reservations he expressed at the time, the President virtually ensured Newt Gingrich's continuance after January as Speaker of the House. By that one simple action he took the sting out of the accusation of extremism and restored Mr Gingrich and his disciples to the political mainstream.

That is not an accusation that is likely to be heard here from the podium. But the subterranean mutterings are audible and it will take more to smother them than the gallant effort by Richard Gephardt (Mr Gingrich's Democratic rival) to pretend that the welfare split

does not exist. You cannot congratulate the President on his courage over the tax Bill and at the same time ignore what appears to many Democrats as his cowardice in consenting to send children into hunger.

Nevertheless, the melancholy record of only two presidential election victories in the past 28 years cannot be disregarded. Even the most disenchanted delegates know that for the moment Mr Clinton looks like the Democrats' last best hope of ensuring their future. This is why, as though with a defeated joy, they acquiesce in his extraordinary dominance over what at other times has been a notoriously fractious party.

Democrats leave politics out of showbiz scenario

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CHICAGO

DEMOCRATS attending their party's convention in Chicago returned gently to earth yesterday after one of the most astonishing opening nights in the history of these quadrennial jamborees.

There was hardly a speech by an elected politician. There was minimal discussion of politics or policy. There was scarcely any overt partisanship. The delegates, and millions of television viewers, were instead treated to a riveting theatrical production featuring two performances that turned the convention centre — a giant indoor sports stadium — into one great cauldron of emotion.

The first was by James Brady, the former White House Press Secretary who was shot through the head during the 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan. He brought the vast convention to its feet by himself rising unexpectedly from his wheelchair and painfully inching across the stage to the podium where he and his wife, Sarah, praised President Clinton for backing gun controls.

The second was by Christopher Reeve, the actor who played Superman, who was paralysed from the neck down by a riding accident last year. Speaking in short, breathless sentences from his high-tech wheelchair, Mr Reeve delivered a plea for America to help its disabled so eloquent and so moving that he, too, not only brought 25,000 conventioners to their feet but had many openly weeping.

Mr Reeve's speech overran by 15 minutes, but not one of the television networks cut away. As he finished, the hall darkened and President Clinton appeared live on three huge screens from a rally in Toledo, Ohio, where his campaign train had stopped for the night.

"Thank you for loving

America," he declared. "Stay with us, and we'll be there." There were no direct attacks on the Republicans and no explicit endorsements of Mr Clinton. Neither was necessary. The Bradys are Reaganite Republicans. Their mere appearance at a Democratic convention was a huge propaganda coup, and when Mrs Brady saluted "the great job that President Clinton has done in fighting crime and gun violence" she was implicitly rebuking a Republican leadership with close ties to the National Rifle Association.

Mr Clinton "understands the difference between a Remington rifle and an AK47. He knows you don't go hunting with an Uzi," she said.

Mr Reeve was also clearly targeting the Republicans when he deplored the slaying of "programmes people need" and appealed for the sort of community involvement that both Clintons have been advocating.

"President Roosevelt showed us that a man who could barely lift himself out of a wheelchair could still lift a nation out of despair," he said. "I believe, and so does this Administration, in the most important principle FDR taught us: America does not

let its needy citizens fend for themselves. America is strongest when all of us take care of all of us."

The evening also featured a tearful tribute to Ron Brown, the Commerce Secretary killed in a plane crash in Croatia, a Chicago policeman shot 11 times in an ambush, a laid-off car worker who had found new work, and a community service volunteer. It was all the political equivalent of subliminal advertising designed to showcase the Democrats as the party of compassion and common sense.

Hillary Clinton appeared on the giant screens to welcome the convention to her home town, and thrilled the delegates when minutes later she arrived in person to watch the Bradys and Mr Reeve from the VIP box.

Completing the package were laser light shows, entertainment by the saxophonist Kenny G and the cast of the musical Rent, a mass macarena dance and an electronic scoreboard updating each second the number of jobs created during the Clinton Administration. The mar-

term of this extravaganza was Gary Smith, a Hollywood producer whose latest credits include the 50th anniversary of the Tony awards.

The convention was expected to return to more orthodox politics last night with speeches by Hillary Clinton and two prominent liberals, the Rev Jesse Jackson and Mario Cuomo, the former New York Governor, both of whom were expected to sharply criticise Mr Clinton for signing a radical Republican welfare reform Bill last week.

Mr Clinton, continuing his four-day train journey to Chicago, was expected to announce in Michigan a \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) programme to attack illiteracy.

Reeve: his speech moved the delegates to tears

Clinton: his speech moved the delegates to tears



Hillary Clinton speaking at the opening of James Adams Park in Chicago yesterday

Folksy jamboree fails to eclipse sniper outriders

FROM TOM RHODES ON BOARD THE 21ST-CENTURY EXPRESS

THE sense of security became obvious only when President Clinton left his caboose cocoon under a full Toledo moon. Shielded from all angles by sharpshooters and the Secret Service, he was rushed from the bulletproof royal blue car, once frequented by Franklin Roosevelt to a bombproof Cadillac, the interstate highway and stadium surrounded by snipers.

Every junction was manned by flashing blue, each high-rise covered and every road cleared for the regal progress.

It has been easy to forget, travelling through the lush country of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, to the industrial car-making centres of Michigan, that this express does indeed carry the leader of the free world. The bunting,

one chunky and apparently harmless yellow locomotive is allowed to follow the 21st Century Express. The engine's appearance belies the truth. "The Secret Service has asked us not to talk about

this," said a senior White House aide. "But there's enough on that train to launch a small war, I understand."

In Bowling Green, Ohio, perhaps the most charming stop so far, Mr Clinton was greeted by raucous crowds, glued to the picturesque sight of their President speaking from the train's podium.

They seemed not to notice the squadrons of police cars that surrounded the yellow war-monger behind and the surveillance helicopter hovering high in the sky.

Women buying sodas from the trackside ice-cream parlour never saw the Swat teams near the signal boxes. "I never thought we'd get this close to the President," said one. "It's just like those old town-hall meetings."

Not quite.

Getting this close to the President is just like those old town hall meetings?

Not quite.

Not quite.

Clinton bans nasty gibes

These are early days, but this just might prove the cleanest presidential campaign in memory. The Republicans hurled some nasty gibes at President Clinton during their San Diego convention, but polls showed that that had turned the public off, and Mr Clinton has refused to respond in kind. He has banned personal attacks on Bob Dole.

Scarcely a speaker mentioned the Republican nominee during the opening night on Monday. Dick Morris, Mr Clinton's political guru, reportedly wanted Evan Bayh, the Governor of Indiana, to savage the Republicans in his keynote speech last night, but Mr Clinton insisted he focus on his Administration's record.

Most astonishing of all, the 16-minute film that will introduce Mr Clinton before his big speech tomorrow night actually lavishes praise on Mr Dole for his service to the country. This only proves that Mr Clinton is a very

CHICAGO NOTEBOOK

shrewd politician. There is no way that he, with his questionable past, could engage a 73-year-old war hero in a personal slanging match and come out on top.

One question before the Democrats came to Chicago was whether they would spotlight or sideline Hillary. Even the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge balked at displaying a portrait of its most famous daughter.

The question has been emphatically answered: Mrs Clinton is everywhere. On Monday she delivered no less than seven "fringe" speeches in eight hours, and was last night addressing not only the convention but her biggest television audience yet. She speaks boldly, defiantly and unapologetically.

While Elizabeth Dole refers to her husband as "Bob" and talks glowingly of the

man behind the politician, Mrs Clinton speaks of "the President" and his policies. The women here — and they comprise half the 4,300 delegates — worship her. One pre-convention poll showed voters preferred Mrs Dole by 49 per cent to 32, but the Democrats' calculation is simple. They lost Congress in 1994 because millions of women chose not to vote, and Hillary is the person most likely to entice them.

Another female Clinton is noticeably raising her public profile this week. Chelsea, now 16, is travelling on her father's train, appearing beside him at every stop, and is expected to be seated prominently in the hall when he speaks tomorrow night. The New York Times reported that she had actually asked to speak, but that was quickly ruled out. She is now a tremendous advertisement for her parents.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Photo clue deepens TWA crash mystery

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A PHOTOGRAPH taken at a party on Long Island has added to the mystery surrounding the crash of TWA Flight 800 by capturing an image of an unidentified flying object, flaming at one end like a missile.

Linda Kabot took the picture on the night of the TWA crash at a fundraising party for her employer, a local Republican politician, on the patio of the Dockers restaurant in East Quogue. The restaurant overlooks the Atlantic, about 15 miles from where the Paris-bound flight exploded on July 17, killing all 230 people on board.

Mrs Kabot photographed guests for 45 minutes, starting at 8pm — about the time the aircraft came down. In the sky, in one photograph of a group, is a long cylindrical object, flying roughly horizontally, with a flame at one end. "I do not know what it is," Mrs

Kabot said yesterday. She first saw the cigar-like object when her husband, Lance, examined the photographs six days after they were taken. The couple called the FBI, who sent a helicopter to ferry the pictures and the negatives to Washington for examination. The FBI asked Mrs Kabot for the party guest list and has interviewed many of the 270 people who were present at the fundraising.

Although the UFO looks uncannily like a missile, some investigators have suggested that it could be the TWA jumbo jet exploding, or a completely unrelated object. Investigators believe a bomb ripped the TWA jet in two, but have not discounted the possibility that it was blown out of the sky by a missile. PETN, the high-explosive detected on wreckage, is found in both plastic explosives and missiles.

Prisoners toil to put out fires

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

TEAMS of prisoners and mountain troops from the US Army joined weary fire crews to fight dozens of forest fires that continued to burn across eight western states yesterday.

About 18,000 men and women are at the front line, some toiling simply to save wildlife habitats. The effort to contain the fires, which burnt 19 homes in Oregon at the weekend and shut down the main highway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on Monday, is reportedly costing \$4 million (£2.5 million) a day. The prisoners were enlisted to fight the fire for \$1 an hour.

About 6,000 lightning strikes were blamed for 43 fires in Oregon and Nevada. In one act of arson, a 15-year-old youth admitted to starting the fire that closed the highway.

Cuba holds fugitive financier in jail

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ROBERT VESCO, the fugitive financier wanted for cheating mutual fund investors in America in the 1960s, has been jailed for 13 years by a Cuban court.

Vesco was convicted earlier this month of economic crimes against the Cuban state and defrauding foreign investors of \$974,000 (£628,000) as part of a scheme to market a "wonder drug" for the treatment of cancer and arthritis. Vesco denied any guilt, arguing that there was no reason why he would defraud a country that had offered him refuge for more than a decade.

The bizarre case also involves the nephews of President Castro and Richard Nixon, the former American President. Señor Castro's nephew is director of the state-owned research company that was defrauded, while Donald Nixon, who was briefly detained in Cuba and later

released, is a long-time associate of Vesco. The son of a car mechanic, Vesco built a fortune on the stock market before fleeing America 25 years ago and leaving a trail of swindled investors. Cuban officials have refused to deport him.



Vesco: wanted in US for swindling investors

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French villagers cheer farmers on mad cow march

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A HERD of French cows, flanked by police motorcycle outriders, plodded along the slow lane of a busy highway towards Paris yesterday in the latest, and maddest, protest at the dire effects of mad cow disease on the French beef industry.

The cattle and their owners set off from the south of Poitiers on August 11 to draw attention to plunging beef prices, and as they approach the end of their 220-mile odyssey, they have caught the imagination of the public and brought new pressure to bear on the French Government.

"We want to see President Chirac, and we will," declared Jacques Tourenne as he rounded up his cows on a football field near Rambouillet, 30 miles south of Paris, for the morning cow-drive.

The herd and herdersmen, originating in one of the poorest agricultural regions of France, will arrive in the capital on Saturday when the animals will be assembled on the Champ de Mars, which has not seen grazing cattle since the siege of Paris in 1870.

What began as a quixotic protest by a handful of farmers from the Vienne region has gradually swollen to 30 cows and more than 80 people.

Tens of six cows at a time take it in turn to amble along the tarmac, behind a tractor with a placard reading: "We are marching to avoid annihilation", while the rest of the herd follows in trailers.

Passing through small towns and villages along the way, they are greeted by the ringing of church bells and spontaneous offers of food and money from sympathetic locals.

Beef consumption in France has dropped by a third since



Chirac expected to meet the protesters

the start of the mad-cow crisis in March, and the protesters say they face financial ruin unless the Government and the European Union steps in with massively increased compensation and a fixed price for beef.

The protest now occupies a regular slot on the evening news and the progress of the "Mad Cow March" is relayed daily by national newspapers. Politically and otherwise, a prolonged occupation of the Champ de Mars, in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, could prove extremely messy.

Jacques Chirac has often emphasised his roots in the cattle-producing region of the Corrèze and one senior Elysée official said President Chirac would probably agree to meet a delegation of the marchers at the weekend.

The troop headed north along the four-lane N10 highway yesterday at a steady 2 mph, causing huge tailbacks but prompting honks of support from lorries passing in the opposite direction.

Roland Fontaneau said he did not regret giving up his summer holiday to walk to

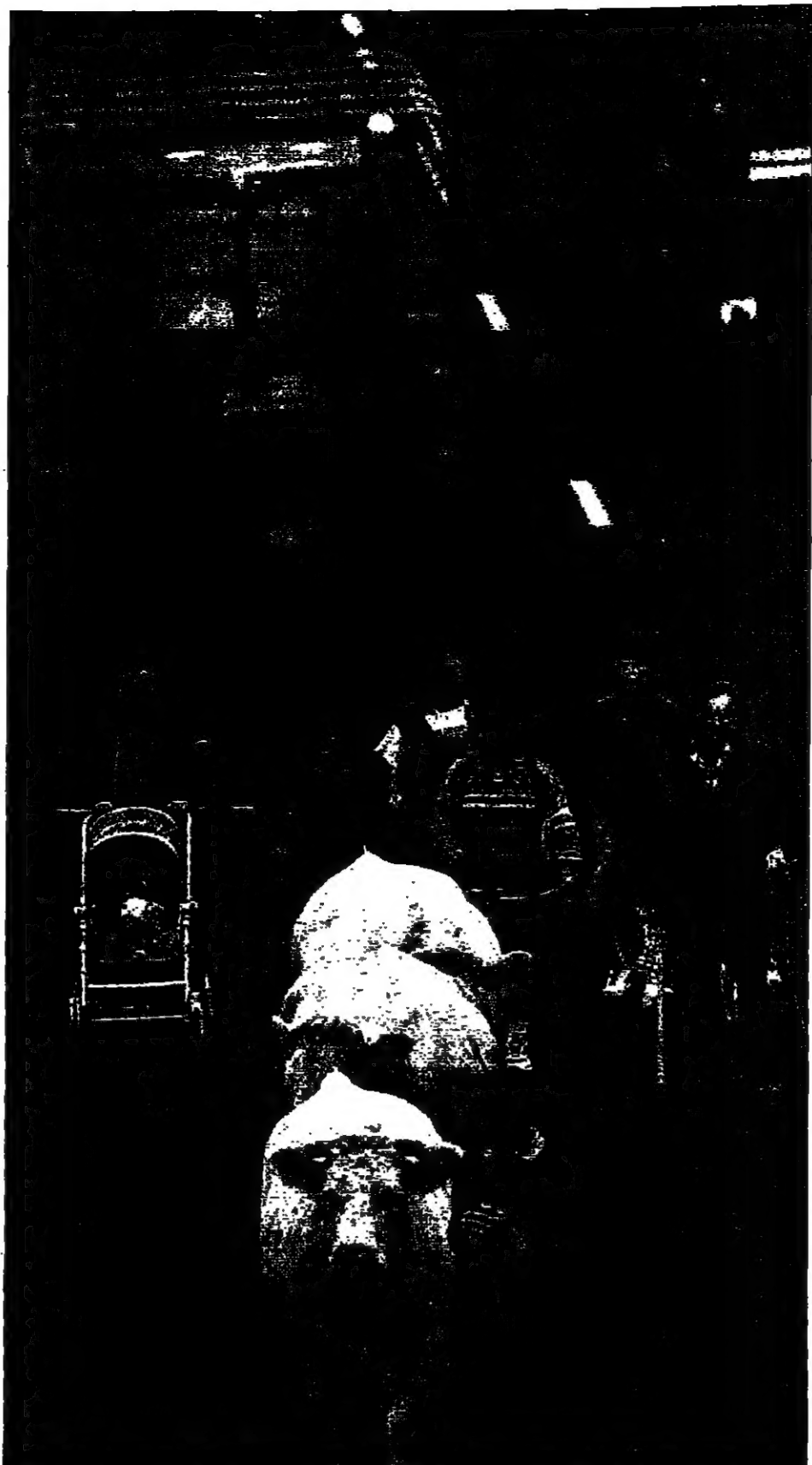
Paris. "This was the best way we could think of to show how serious things have got," he said.

Like many French farmers, he holds Britain to blame for the health scare that has undermined his livelihood, but he also suspects a more sinister conspiracy. "I think the United States put pressure on Britain to destabilise the European beef market so that American suppliers could monopolise the market," he said.

At night the walkers sleep on straw in the cattle trailers or accept whatever local hospitality is offered. "It's amazing how much help we've had," M Fontaneau remarked, as he whacked the ample rump of Marguerite, a Limousin heifer and the self-appointed herd-leader. The walkers say that Marguerite has become wholly committed to the protest, often refusing to get back into the trailer at the end of her stint on the road.

Herding cows on a dual carriageway is technically illegal, yet the police have not only allowed the march to continue but have provided a motorcycle escort. They have warned the herdersmen, however, that as traffic becomes heavier on the approach to the capital, the cows will have to travel on the trailers for some stretches and avoid rushhours.

After their strenuous efforts, the cows will not end up at the Rungis foodmarket outside Paris, but will be returned to the Vienne, leaner and a good deal fitter. "Sometimes we bathe their feet because the road makes them hot," said Jean Grolleau, owner of Marguerite, but otherwise the cows appeared to be enjoying their forced march.



Part of the Limousin herd being driven to Paris in a protest against falling beef prices

Italian Cabinet struggles to hold fast to Maastricht

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE rift in the Italian Cabinet over whether Italy will be able to meet the Maastricht targets for monetary union worsened yesterday despite attempts by senior ministers to smooth over the dispute.

The Italian consensus on the single currency cracked last weekend when Cesare Romiti, the head of Fiat, questioned the wisdom of trying to meet the Maastricht criteria, saying that job creation should come first. Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, then agreed that, because of recession on the Continent, European Union states should "sit around a table and review the criteria and the schedule for monetary union. The parameters were too severe," he told *Corriere della Sera*.

Yesterday Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, appeared to contradict his deputy, saying that Italy "cannot possibly ask for a review of the Maastricht criteria". This would give the wrong signal to the markets, which were looking to the Italian draft 1997 budget to provide "the kind of message that will enable interest rates to come down".

Signor Prodi and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury and Budget Minister, have designed the 1997 budget, which includes far-reaching spending cuts, to help Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria on inflation and the public deficit. Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, appeared on the main television evening news to assure Italians that "no one is thinking of revising the parameters. That would be a great mistake".

There was room for manoeuvre, however, over the timing of monetary union. Signor Dini said, with EU leaders deciding in 1998 how many countries should join the single currency in the first phase. His remarks were given first place in the news

bulletin and treated as a solemn declaration.

Behind the tensions, which mark the end of the Prodi Government's first 100-day "honeymoon" (and the end of the summer break), lies the fact that Italy has no hope of qualifying in time and would secretly welcome a delay.

Under the Maastricht criteria, for example, the budget deficit must be no greater than 3 per cent of gross domestic product. The Italian deficit was 10 per cent of GDP three years ago; this has been cut to 6 per cent this year, and the Government's aim is to reduce it to 4.5 per cent next year. But Signor Prodi has given a warning that this will require sacrifices and will still leave Italy with a long way to go.

"Europe" has until now been an article of faith for Italy's industrialists and politicians. But *La Repubblica* published yesterday a chart which it said cruelly exposed Italy's pretensions. The chart showed that, while Germany would probably meet 100 per cent of the Maastricht targets and France nearly 100 per cent, Italy would reach only 2 per cent, just ahead of Portugal and Greece which would meet none.

Britain would meet 22 per cent of the requirements, behind Finland (36 per cent), Denmark (50), Ireland (60), The Netherlands (76), and Belgium and Austria (both 79 per cent).

Signor Veltroni said there was no prospect of Italy "breaking away from Maastricht unilaterally", and any revision of the targets had to be Europe-wide.

Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the centre-right opposition, said the centre-left Government had "come rather late" to the realisation that the criteria were too strict, an argument he had advanced when Prime Minister in 1994.

Plea by sex change man to be father

Brussels: The European Court of Human Rights yesterday began hearing a complaint by a British transsexual man — born a woman — who was refused the right to be recognised as the legal father of his woman companion's child (Charles Bremner writes).

The man, identified in court as Mr X, has been fighting for recognition since the child was born in 1992. He has lived with the mother since 1979 and the child was conceived through artificial insemination by donated sperm.

The Ministry of Health ruled that, while the child could bear Mr X's name, only a biological man could be legally registered as the child's father.

The case, in which Mr X is charging the British Government with breaching the article of the European Human Rights on privacy, goes to the heart of the campaign by transsexuals to remove barriers which they say deprive them of a normal life.

Nobel laureate describes his 15 years of madness

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

DISCLOSING he had once lived through "15 years of madness" brought on by the nature and strain of his subject, the Nobel laureate John Nash said here yesterday that there is a conspicuous link between mathematical genius and mental disorder.

In a provocative paper delivered at the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry, Professor Nash, who shared the 1994 Nobel Prize for Economics for his research on game theory, spoke of the schizophrenia from which he suffered between 1959 and 1974. "The delirium was like a dream from which I seemed never to awake," he said.

The 68-year-old American scientist's illness began soon after the magazine *Fortune* had fêted him as the "most promising young mathematician in the world". Steeped in his research on game theory, Professor Nash started to believe "first, that the staff at my university, the Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology, and later all of Boston, was behaving very strangely towards him. "I started to see crypto-communists," he said.

His condition deteriorated so much that his wife divorced him, though she was later to return to his side. "I started to think I was a man of great religious importance, and to hear voices all the time." Although the scientist was admitted to hospital intermittently for his condition, his mathematical output went from strength to strength.

Professor Nash said: "I would not dare to say that there is a direct relation between mathematics and madness, but there is no doubt that great mathematicians suffer from manic depressive illness."

He cited several examples of cases like his own: Georg Cantor, who founded set theory and the concept of transfinite numbers; Kurt Gödel, whose eponymous

Proof has become a hallmark of 20th-century mathematics; and Alan Turing, a pioneer in computer theory.

The professor put forward the thesis that rationality often interferes with the "ultra-logical thinking" necessary for mathematics.

Leading article, page 13



Nash: 'madness genius and madness linked'

Lebed under attack on a broad front

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Russian national security chief, came under intense attack yesterday from a broad array of political opponents seeking to unravel his Chechnya peace deal.

In the first sign of a concerted campaign to undermine his mission, the pro-Moscow Chechen leadership and the Communist-led opposition accused him of acting without authority and of jeopardising Russia's constitution and territorial sovereignty.

The harshest criticism came from Doku Zavgayev, the Kremlin-backed President of Chechnya, whose Government was all but wiped out in the rebel offensive on August 6. He accused General Lebed of "surrendering Grozny to the separatists", of holding "secret backstage talks with the rebels", and of threatening to plunge the entire Caucasus into civil war.

Although his comments were hardly surprising, given that his authority was stripped

away by the Russian-Chechen truce signed last week, he was not alone in his condemnation. "Covering himself with the authority of the Russian President, Lebed is playing dangerous games with Chechnya's sovereignty, which is totally unacceptable," said Sergei Baburin, the nationalist Deputy Speaker of the Russian parliament. He also accused the former army officer of masterminding a "political crime".

Valentin Kuptsov, deputy head of the Communist Party, said the main opposition parties in parliament would demand explanations this week for General Lebed's controversial mission. The left-nationalist alliance wants to know exactly what his powers are and why President Yeltsin is refusing to meet him.

Firefighters overpowered a man who threatened to set himself on fire to keep his son from being drafted into Russia's beleaguered army. (AP)



A father carries his child to an ambulance in Crete

400 sick on cruise ship

FOUR Britons were reported ill with food poisoning on an Italian-owned cruise liner at anchor off the port of Heraklion, Crete (writes John Carr in Athens). A British consular official said they were being treated on board and their condition was "not serious".

The 13 other British passengers on board the *Costa Riviera* had no symptoms. But about 400 of the 1,200 passengers — the majority Italian — fell ill with what a doctor diagnosed as acute gastro-enteritis. Two passengers were taken to hospital in Heraklion.

The governor of the Crete province, Yannis Garyfalakis, said yesterday: "I believe that the situation is under control."

The cases are not that serious and our doctors are treating them on the boat with medical supplies rushed in by local hospitals. However, coast-guard officials in Heraklion said up to 30 people could be taken to hospital for further treatment.

The ship, which started its voyage at Venice, has now been confined to Heraklion harbour until tomorrow to allow food and water samples to be taken, a port official said.

The ship, which flies a Liberian flag, is owned by Costa Grociere in Genoa, Italy, and operated by a Greek company. It was on a cruise to Crete and other Greek islands.

Poland welcomes Germans as Nato links grow

BRITISH tanks will soon move into Poland to mark the 57th anniversary of the outbreak of war. It will be the first time British armour has crossed Nato's eastern frontier.

The heavy progress of the 7th Armoured Brigade, led by Brigadier David Montgomery, over the autobahn and rail network may not be an enchanting prospect for Germans returning from holiday, but for the Poles it is a magical moment. The decision to exercise on former Warsaw Pact training grounds, rather than the traditional sites on the north German plains, is a sign that the practical problems of Polish entry to Nato are being tackled with more energy than its admission to the European Union.

Even Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the Euro-enthusiast Prime Minister, now accepts that "we may become a member of Nato a year or two earlier" than the EU. The Polish offer of a training ground to the British shows how far Warsaw's co-operation with Nato is going beyond the measures provided for under the Partnership for Peace programme.

At a policy level, the "Weimar triangle" of Poland, France and Germany deals with strategic questions, but in practical terms the most important alignment is between Poland, Germany and Denmark. Defence ministers from those three countries, which share a Baltic coastline, exchange very detailed and confidential military information, including confidential data.

There are now twinned units, joint units (such as the Polish-Nordic brigade in Bosnia-Herzegovina) and

British tanks are heading towards Poland in exercises marking the 57th anniversary of the start of the Second World War, as the former Warsaw Pact member edges closer to joining Nato, writes Roger Boyes

some 12 shared manoeuvres are scheduled for this year. German, Danish and Polish minesweepers were patrolling the Baltic earlier this month. Land exercises will also be held next month with Polish and German pilots providing air support.

The British are thus catching up with a more natural geopolitical constellation. The older Polish officers, after all, were trained to attack Germany and Denmark rather than Britain. Colonel Marian Kowalewski, who runs the International Security Department of the Ministry of Defence, says that he knows the Danish islands "like the back of my hand" because in Communist days he was an officer in the 7th Assault Division, trained to invade Denmark on behalf of the Warsaw Pact.

The triangular relationship between Denmark, Poland and Germany helps to water down resentments dating from the Second World War. Danish officers recall that when German detachments entered Denmark for exercises in the 1960s, they were screamed at by demonstrators. Since September 1994, German tank units have been active in Poland and, because of the involvement of other Nato armies, have been given a well-mannered, sometimes even friendly, reception.

The British are regarded more warmly by Polish officers, even if the contacts are not as intense as with the Germans.

"There is a mutual respect, not only because of the Second World War but also because of Britain's proven combat readiness in the Falklands, the Gulf and in Bosnia," a senior Polish officer said.

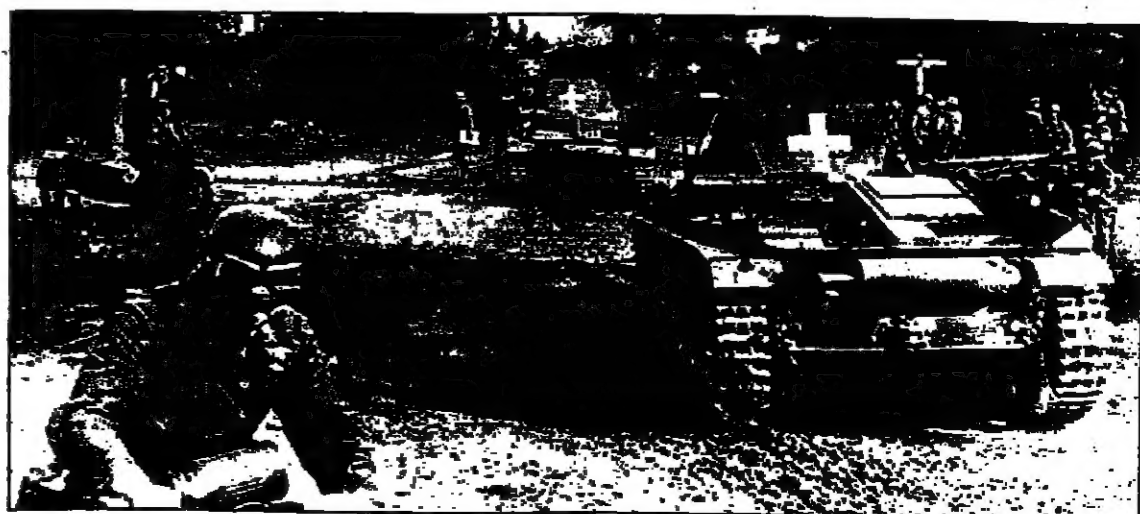
Poland's top brass, gathered at the Bydgoszcz air fair last weekend, gave

a notably warmer reception to British Harrier jets, which landed with precision in front of the VIP podium, than to other foreign aircraft on display. The American Hornet, the French Mirage 2000-5 and the Russian MiG29 competed for attention.

There is some wariness in Poland that Nato enlargement is being supported by Western states partly for commercial gain or domestic political advantage. The American offer of F16 fighters, essentially without payment, and even last month's decision by Washington to grant \$60 million (£38 million) of military aid to the Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovenes is seen in the context of the American election campaign; the ethnic Polish vote counts for a great deal.

"We will examine the strength and weaknesses of each aircraft and will choose the most up-to-date and most affordable," President Kwasniewski said at the air show. The Polish Air Force is pressing for a quick decision.

The closer the co-operation becomes, the more obvious are the differences in military sophistication. Poland spends only £51 per head on defence, compared with £118 in Germany. Tank technology in Germany is moving on while the Poles are lagging behind and Western navy command systems are a generation ahead of Polish technology. The computerisation of Nato has left the former Warsaw Pact countries standing, making a nonsense of the "inter-operability" which is the precondition for Polish entry to Nato.



German troops invade Poland in 1939. Now the two countries are engaged in close military co-operation

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Palestinian building bulldozed by Israelis

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

WHILE most Arab residents were still sleeping yesterday, Israeli police hoisted a bulldozer over the walls of Jerusalem's Old City and demolished a centre for handicapped and elderly Palestinians.

The demolition inside the Muslim quarter was one of two actions during the day that signalled the start of a tougher policy against the Palestinians by the right-wing Government of the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The second came only a few hours after the demolition, when the Government confirmed it had approved the expansion of a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

Palestinians immediately called a two-hour strike over the demolition of the incomplete building, which the Jerusalem municipal authorities declared was being constructed without a permit. Diplomats and reporters gathered to look at the ruins, watched by Israeli soldiers standing on the Old City's ramparts.

The Jerusalem municipality said there was no reason for the Israelis to apologise. "The building destroyed in the Old City was unoccupied. It was destroyed because it was built without a permit."

But Palestinian leaders said the

demolition meant Israel was no longer interested in peacemaking. "This is a war that has been declared on us. This building was intended to serve Palestinians in the Old City and posed no threat," said Ahmed Hashem Zighayer, a Palestinian legislative council member.

Israeli police countered that the building was being constructed with funds from the Palestinian Authority for use as a social club. Under Israeli-Palestinian peace accords, the authority is forbidden to operate inside Jerusalem.

Hayel Sandouka, president of the charity that helped to build the centre, denied this, saying funds had come from private sources, including churches and non-government organisations in Sweden and Canada. He said the building was part of a project that included a handicapped centre, a home for the elderly and a kindergarten.

Some Palestinians believe its destruction was part of a drive by Israel to push them out of the Holy City. Anger was still growing when the Israeli Government confirmed it had approved the construction of a new neighbourhood at a Jewish settlement on the West Bank.

Israel's Defence Ministry said the Government was simply lifting a

freeze on the building plan for Kiryat Sefer, which had been approved by the previous Government. The community of Kiryat Sefer is west of Ramallah, a Palestinian city on the West Bank.

Jewish settlements are a sensitive issue because of Palestinian demands to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But even Israeli peace activists said yesterday that there had been building activity round Kiryat Sefer for some years and it was one of the Jewish communities Israel intended to retain in any agreement.

Palestinians counted a pledge by Israel's Government to ease the closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the only positive development yesterday. The promise came from Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, after a meeting with Maher al-Masri, the Palestinian Trade Minister.

The ban was imposed in March after a wave of suicide bombings by Islamic militants. It prevents tens of thousands of Palestinian workers from entering Israel.

Last week United Nations officials said that, if the closure continued for much longer, it would lead to the Palestinian Authority's financial collapse.



Israeli police workers complete the community centre's demolition

Municipal polls in Bosnia delayed

FROM REUTERS IN SARAJEVO

THE American diplomat in charge of elections in Bosnia yesterday postponed voting for municipal assemblies, citing alleged irregularities in Serb voter registrations.

Robert Frowick, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's mission in Bosnia, said he had decided to delay the September 14 municipal polls because they were "not feasible". He said voting would be rescheduled to April or May.

The organisation is charged with supervising the polls under the Dayton peace deal. But Mr Frowick said voting would be held on September 14 for cantonal assemblies, separate Muslim-Croat and Serb parliaments, a national House of Representatives and a three-man presidency.

His decision will affect the Nato-led peace mission in Bosnia whose mandate is due to end on December 30, but will now have to be strong enough to provide security for the delayed elections.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMESTOUJOURS
ST TROPEZ

The fall and rise of the celebrity holiday camp, in the Magazine

PLUS

Weekend, Car 96, Weekend Money, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

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Apartheid killer seeks amnesty

FROM REUTERS IN PRETORIA

A FORMER South African police colonel was yesterday convicted of six murders and 83 other crimes in the first trial of apartheid-era "death squads".

Eugene de Kock faces life sentences on each murder charge, but could avoid jail if Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission grants his request for amnesty in exchange for testimony against former colleagues. South Africa abolished the death penalty in June 1995.

On Monday at the Pretoria Supreme Court, Judge Willem van der Merwe convicted de Kock of five murders and yesterday found him guilty of blowing up a black activist as well as the attempted murder of his former hit-squad chief.

The judge further convicted de Kock of 66 fraud charges and 17 others, including attempted murder, conspiracy to murder and illegal possession of arms and explosives. The crimes involved massacres and random killings, attacks on township hostels and trains, car bombings, torture, beatings and vendettas against fellow police.

De Kock, who has admitted he was the "most effective assassin" under white rule, returns to court on September 16, when his lawyers are to begin their argument in mitigation of sentence.

Judge van der Merwe said de Kock — dubbed "Prime Evil" by his colleagues — tried to kill his predecessor Dirk Coetzee, commander of a covert hit-squad unit based at Vlakplaas farm near Pretoria.

Coetzee, who has claimed responsibility for several political assassinations ordered by apartheid chiefs, spoke publicly in 1989 about the death squads and became a target of the unit he had led until 1985.

De Kock and others sent a package with tapes, headphones and explosives to an address in Zambia where Coetzee, who had meanwhile joined the African National Congress, was supposed to fetch it.

But the post office sent the parcel to Bheki Mlangeni, an ANC lawyer and death squad investigator, who was given as the sender. Mlangeni was killed by the explosives, for which de Kock was convicted of culpable homicide.

Cambodia rebel split fuels fears for Briton

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THERE is growing concern about the fate of Christopher Howes, the British mine-clearing expert being held hostage by the Khmer Rouge, after the split this month in the Cambodian guerrilla group.

Mr Howes was kidnapped, along with his interpreter, on March 26 near the Angkor Wat temple complex, and is believed to be held at Anlong Veng, the northern headquarters of the Khmer Rouge.

Two senior British police officers are at Siem Reap, near Angkor Wat, to analyse field reports on Mr Howes. Diplomats here say that Cambodian forces in the area are optimistic that Mr Howes is still alive. "There is no real evidence one way or another," said a source, "but it is a good sign that there are no rumours of his death."

Mr Howes's kidnappers had given him a chance to leave to seek a ransom for the men he was leading, but the former British Army NCO refused to leave his men.

He was taken to Anlong Veng, the base of Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader rumoured to have died recently. Earlier this month Pol Pot's right-hand man, Ieng Sary, and some generals defected. They are now in negotiation with the Cambodian government about giving up the armed struggle. There have been reports that their action has stirred "confusion" in Anlong Veng, and it is unclear how the developing situation will affect Mr Howes.

In 1994, two Britons and an Australian girlfriend of one of the men, who were on holiday, were kidnapped and then killed by the Khmer Rouge.

Mother Teresa better

Calcutta: Mother Teresa's health improved significantly on her 86th birthday yesterday, as greetings arrived from around the world. Doctors said they were increasingly confident she would survive her battle against malaria and heart trouble. At one stage she was taken off respiratory support for six hours.

Speaking for the first time since her illness, she said yesterday: "I want to go home. I am anxious who is going to pay the hospital bill." (Reuters)

Rwandan return

Butare, Rwanda: The final Rwandan refugee camp in Burundi closed as the last of 6,000 refugees left for Rwanda, said a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (Reuters)

Jakarta hunt

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities have summoned five more people for questioning in subversion cases connected with last month's rioting in Jakarta, the Antara news agency reported. (AFP)

Strike deadlock

Harare: Thousands of state employees continued their strikes as Zimbabwe's Government refused to negotiate with sacked union officials over pay claims ranging up to 100 per cent. (AFP)

In the cage

Perth: Denham Peiris, 32, who dyed cheap parrots and passed them off as rare and costly specimens, has been jailed. He hatched the scam to take revenge on a pet shop that sacked him for theft. (AP)

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Warehouse: still looking good at 20

Iain R. Webb reports on the high street chain that continues to hold catwalk junkies in its thrall



Deirdre McGuire



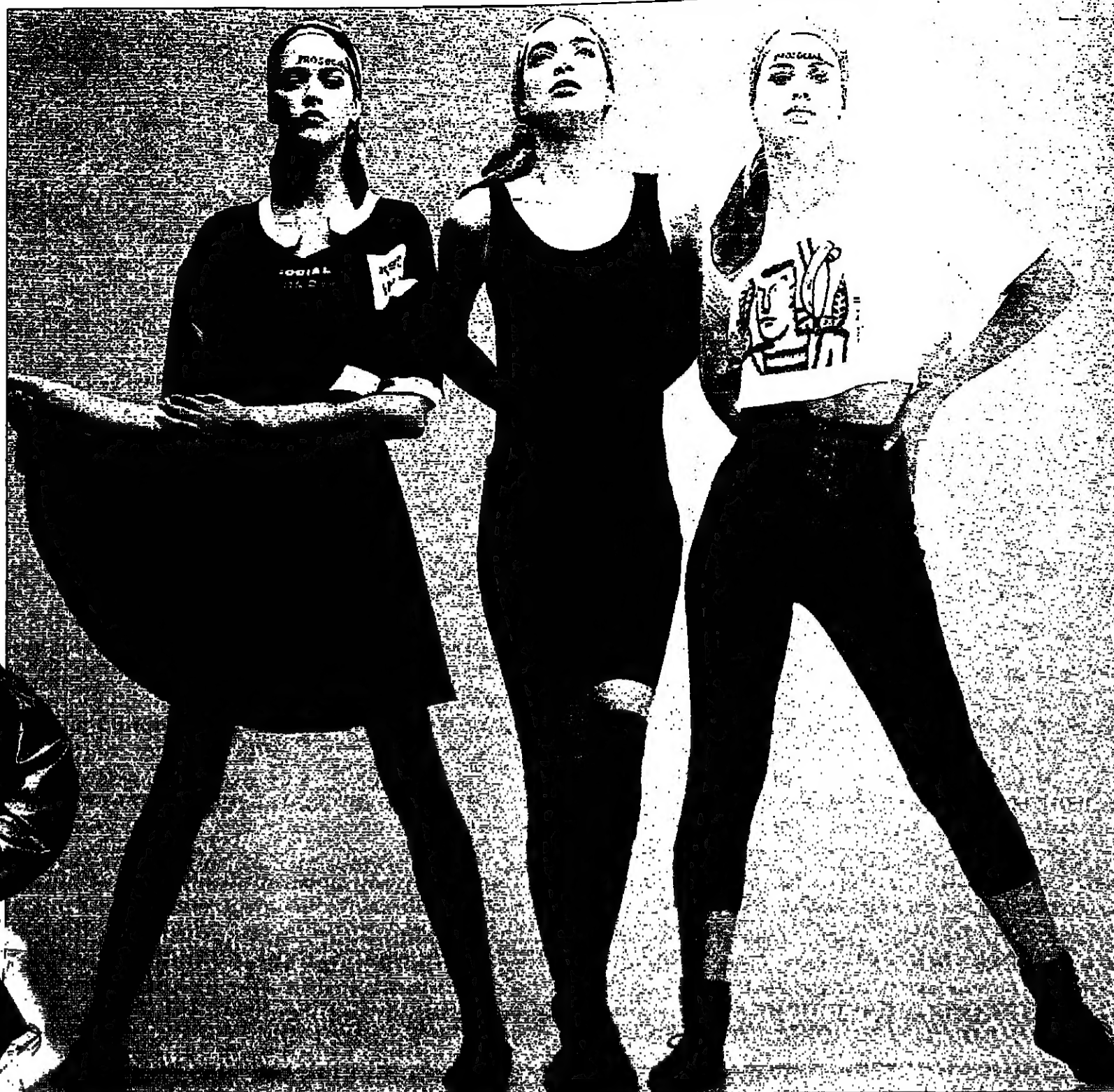
Mandy Smith: "The clothes had a cancan girl feeling"



Lindsay Thurloe



Christy Turlington: cover girl for the ByMail catalogue



Caroline Baker, now *You* magazine fashion editor, says: "I was known as queen of styling. I used to pile all the bits on — jewellery, over-the-knee socks, the lot"



Naomi Campbell: before she became a household name



David Simms: now the ultra-hip fashion photographer

Next month the Warehouse high street chain celebrates 20 years in business. The first store opened in Argyle Street in London's West End in 1976 and was called Warehouse Utility Clothing Co. It was the

brainchild of Jeff Banks, the designer and, more recently, BBC's *Clothes Show* presenter, who wanted to offer the public up-to-the-minute designs at rock bottom prices. Warehouse has always worked on fashion's pulse — in the 1970s the store sold

smock tops, Oxford bags and skinny ribs. In the 1980s there were powersuits, padded shoulders and puffballs. Naomi Campbell did some of her first modelling assignments for the ByMail catalogue which also featured a host of supermodels before they were even known as such. Celebrities merrily modelled the wares. In one of the menswear catalogues from the mid-1980s you can find a (very) young David Simms, now the ultra-hip fashion photographer who lists Calvin Klein and *Harpers Bazaar* among his clients. Then he was a photographer's assistant and was pushed in front of the camera to model a natty shirt and tie.

Although the 1990s prices may not be quite so keen, Banks's vision — he left the company in 1989 — is still kept very much alive by the fashion director Yasmin Yusuf, who has been responsible for pulling the company back to the forefront of fashion.

Today there are 75 Warehouse stores throughout Britain which this autumn offer directional looks which mirror those seen on the international catwalks — jersey trouser suits with the all-important "bootcut" trousers, one-button blazers in plum and midnight blue velvet, fluffy Tibetan lamb trims, wild animal prints, narrow-cut leather jeans in creamy shades, tunics, military styling, and slinky jersey Halston-inspired evening dresses.

After two decades Warehouse is still looking good. Below, some of those involved with the company over the years celebrate the success of the stylish high street store.

Jeff Banks — fashion designer, retailer and commentator: "In the mid-1970s the cost of clothes was on an upward spiral. I went to Harrods and saw one of my sheepskin coats selling for £800. I couldn't afford to own the things I was designing. I decided to open a shop flogging designs straight from the factory. It made everything much more economical for the customer and hadn't been done since Barbara Hulanicki did it with Biba. I put together a design team from graduates from the RCA and Saint

Martin's College of Art: many now head their own design teams at Jigsaw, Oasis, M&S and Monsoon. The store ran like a warehouse, hence the name."

Yasmin Yusuf — fashion director, Warehouse: "I still get a thrill when I see someone wearing one of our outfits. People don't have enough disposable income to buy designer clothes or they want to spend money on their homes, families and holidays. We're not like France or Italy where they wear their wealth."

Marcus Von Ackermann — fashion director, French *Vogue*: "People are always accusing the high street of ripping off designer fashion but Warehouse have their own design studio and their collections are 75 per cent finished when we [the fashion press] go to the collections. They don't get pictures of Dolce & Gabbana and rip it off. I don't think many people realise that. I styled the menswear when Jeff Banks launched it, and I've styled their pictures for the past two years or so."

John Bishop, photographer: "The first thing I ever did was a brochure which was one of the first to be done by a

high street store. It was also the first time anybody had used supermodels. The girl of the moment was Deirdre McGuire and I remember Jeff ended up paying her a lot of money, maybe \$2,000 a day.

When Jeff did the ByMail catalogue the concept was brand new: now everybody is doing fashion mail order. We photographed all the models before they became household names — Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Stephanie Seymour, Andie McDowell — I remember thinking she was really great but who knew that in ten years' time she would be starring in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*? Jeff always got the best out of people. For the models it was a good thing to do."

Lucinda Chambers, fashion director, *Vogue*: "Warehouse was one of the first high street shops that really gave cutting-edge fashion to young girls. The clothes are well cut, a good price and yet still very fashionable. I styled photographs of Tilda Swinton taken by Kim Kriit for a tribute to the photographer Norman Parkinson. There was a slim budget but you could do whatever you wanted. We made Tilda look like Georgia O'Keeffe — very classic. I always go to Warehouse to see what's right for now. I would still go there for really good basics — cardigans, skinny polo necks, T-shirts — they are good quality at good prices and the young kids go there

for funky things. It just never stands still."

Mandy Smith: "I loved the pictures I did for Warehouse. The photographer, Stevie Hughes, made the shoot and the pictures fun. I was wearing glamorous party frocks. There was a red velvet jacket that

was gorgeous and I remember a pale pink dress which I wasn't overkeen on. They had a cancan-girl feeling which of course I desperately wanted to be when I was young, and a touch of Madonna. I've always admired her so I quite liked that."

Caroline Baker — fashion editor, *You* magazine: "I began working with Warehouse on the ByMail catalogues. Jeff knew what he wanted and he got what he wanted. I remember being stuck in a basement studio during a heatwave. We'd shoot non-stop, 24 different pictures a day. Every outfit had to be styled completely differently. At the time I was known as queen of styling because I used to pile all the bits on — jewellery, headwraps, over-the-knee socks, belts, the lot. Today in styling less is more. Jeff understood the selling power of supermodels — Kristen McMenemy, Cecilia Chancellor, Carla Bruni, Talisa Soto and, of course, Christy and Naomi."

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In the final part of our series, Grace Bradberry and Anjana Ahuja report on siblings under stress

COPING WITH ILLEGITIMACY

Ellie O'Sullivan was two years old when she was sent away to boarding school, along with her sister Bridget, who was three years older. Their mother did not explain why they could not remain with her. Nor were they told who their father was though they were led to believe that their mother had once been married.

In fact, they were illegitimate. Their mother, Lean O'Sullivan, a domestic servant at a house in Ireland, had an affair with an older, married, man. When Bridget was born, she somehow contrived to carry on the affair, moving to Dublin where her lover, Timothy Daly, also lived.

But with Ellie's birth she decided to begin a new life in London, and went to live with various sisters who agreed to keep the existence of the two little girls a secret from the extended family.

Several times, Lean took her daughters back to Ireland where they met "Uncle Timothy" without knowing that he was their father.

"We didn't grow up with a sense of shame," says Ellie, now 46. "But I felt something. Our family was very poor, and had never sent children away, and yet we were packed off."

Ellie's older sister became her protector. "I had this expectation that people wouldn't bully Bridget, that they would take her seriously. Of course, that wasn't true because she was a child like me, but just thinking it was enough. Once when I was in trouble at boarding school, I was made to stand in a cold bathroom and she came storming up and demanded that I be put back in my bed. She was eight at the time."

Their experiences created a close bond, but also left them with a curious ambivalence towards one another, something that Ellie explores in her documentaries, one of which is to be broadcast on the BBC.

In hindsight, Ellie is riven by guilt at what she sees as the burden her sister had to bear. "Being older than I was, Bridget knew more and felt more than I did. I still feel

guilty that she was exposed to it more. She was my defence against everything. When I was about 23, I remember someone saying to her, 'Are you glad you had a sister?' and she said, 'No'. I was devastated. Now she says it meant nothing, but it upset me and I realised that to have this small person as her responsibility must have been hard."

While Ellie romanticised the circumstances of her birth, her sister Bridget seems to have carried the burden of knowing more.

"It was only when I reached 14 that I suddenly said to my mother, out of the blue, 'You weren't really married, there is no husband'. And she said that no, there wasn't. I was stunned."

But it transpired that Bridget knew. My mother said, 'I thought your sister would have told you'. And to this day, Bridget and I don't discuss it."

Their relationship is still incredibly close, but it changed considerably during their teenage years. When Ellie was 11, and her sister 14, their mother found a home of

her own, and took her daughters home to live with her. They were sent to a secondary modern school and suddenly had many hours of unsupervised time.

"Suddenly we were divided, looked upon as two separate people. Both of us found it difficult."

As they grew into their twenties the relationship mended itself. Ellie is now married to Peter, and has a daughter, Charlotte, by her first marriage. Bridget lives with Brian, her partner, and has two sons. But their experiences as children still shape how they feel about each other.

"My husband was shocked when he saw how my sister and I behaved when we went to see my mother. Right up until she died in 1983, he said we would be like two small children vying for her attention."

● Ellie O'Sullivan's Picture This: Who Do I Love The Most. BBC 2, next Tuesday, 8pm.

GRACE BRADBERRY



Ellie, above, and her elder sister Bridget were kept a secret from the rest of the family

William Preston would have been 30 in October. The trainee English teacher would have probably been writing comedy scripts or science fiction pilots by now. Eleanor, his younger sister, often wonders what might have been. William died after an epileptic seizure in November 1988. "I woke up one Saturday morning to the most bloodcurdling scream," she says. "My mother was calling out my father's name." Her mother found William lying on the floor of his bedroom at the family's rambling Victorian home in southwest London. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the former St Stephen's Hospital in Chelsea.

Eleanor, now a 25-year-old freelance journalist, comes from an educated, literary family — her father, Antony, is a naval historian and author, her mother, Jennifer, is an educational consultant, her

BEREAVEMENT

brother, Matthew, 35, is a journalist in Australia and his sister, Katie, 28, is a books editor in west London. William would have continued this tradition. He read English at Wadham College, Oxford University, and his first job was teaching English to foreigners. He was 22 when he died.

He came close to death with his first fit four years earlier, after which he was diagnosed as having epilepsy. Despite this, nobody in the family had seriously contemplated losing him. Their sense of loss was compounded by the rareness of the event — sudden death from epilepsy is not well understood.

Eleanor was 17 at the time. An inevitable period of intense emptiness followed, made worse by the fact that no one seemed to understand how she felt. "When the fiftieth person came up to me and asked 'How is your mum coping?' I felt like replying 'She's going through hell and so am I'."

The feelings of Eleanor, Katie and Matthew are echoed by the experiences of other bereaved siblings, according to Heather Elvans, who co-runs Support in Bereavement for Brothers and Sisters (Sibbs).

When Heather was 11, her sister died of a brain tumour. She did not seek help until she was 24. "I felt I had reached crisis point, and had to deal with it." Two years later, she and Jo Humphries, another bereaved sibling, set up Sibbs, an arm of the bereavement organisation Compassionate Friends.

The organisation, which Heather runs in her spare time from her York home, is a support group rather than a counselling service, and sends out a regular newsletter featuring letters and poems. Heather estimates that this year alone, and without any advertising, more than 1,000 people have made contact.

The anguish of losing a sibling can manifest itself in many ways. Some feel suicidal, while others take on aspects of the dead siblings, such as inheriting their ambitions. Several, who cannot cope with the idea that they might inflict further pain on their parents, insulate themselves and change their lives to prevent protective parents from worrying.

Parents look for help, too. "We get lots of parents who are worried about the effect of losing a child on their remaining children," Heather says. "Parents often say they feel their life has ended, and that obviously can have an effect on the other siblings. Children can pick up an awful lot."

ANJANA AHUJA
● Sibbs, PO Box 265, York, YO2 5YF.

Down's victims deserve all of society's care

The children we must never reject

Few children can have had greater cause to celebrate their GCSE passes last week than Aine Rothwell. Aine has Down's syndrome. A few years ago she was refused entrance to three schools in East Sussex, all jostling for positions on the Government league tables. Finally she was accepted by the Uckfield Community College. If Down's children were once regarded as ineducable, Aine Rothwell has helped to lay this myth to rest.

The 1981 Education Act gave children with special needs the right to be educated in mainstream schools. Yet, in spite of numerous research studies proving that children with Down's syndrome perform better in such schools, several local authorities continue to implement a policy of segregation.

Councils that have invested in special facilities are reluctant to see their efforts neglected. Authorities argue that they cannot afford the additional cost of supporting disabled children. But with the quality of a child's life at stake, every effort should be made to overcome financial hurdles. Cozy elitism must not be allowed to snuggle up with a quasi-fascist form of discrimination dangerously close to the terrifying ideologies of eugenics.

Ours is an age of increasing standardisation and homogeneity. We are too often queasily ambivalent about those who are "different". That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of our time," wrote John Stuart Mill in 1859. Those who do not behave in accordance with social convention threaten a conservatism which guards our personalities. We ostracise those whom we do not understand.

Yet the line between genius and abnormality is tenuous. Great thinkers such as Blake, Wittgenstein and Einstein all balanced on the borders of mental instability. Rothko's grandiose canvases, Van Gogh's tempestuous palette, Pollock's wild expression were all the products of erratic minds. In this abnormality we have come to find our deepest truths. In classical literature, Sybilline prophecies were uttered in an ecstatic trance. Shakespeare's King Lear finds stark reason in the madness of his fool. We should learn from our culture and history that abnormality is to be cherished rather than barricaded off by unforgiving standards of conventionality.

This is not to say that we have the right to clamber onto the high moral ground, branding as callous and cowardly a woman who terminates a pregnancy. We live in a world in which clear moral poles have long since vanished. But once a child has been born, whatever its defects, it is society's solemn duty to nurture it.

"When James was born, I remember the tremendous quiet in my head when I thought about the unknown territories of his future," said a friend of mine whose brother was born with Down's syndrome. But her mother was determined that this, the youngest of six children, should lead as normal a life as possible. Down's children, the family soon learnt, have an enormous potential. With help they may go on to lead relatively independent lives, learning to read and write, relate socially, hold down jobs, even marry.

James had weak muscle tone as a toddler. His mother tried to get him into children's dancing classes to help him to balance and walk better, but schools rejected him. She got used to hiding his pushchair before he

reached the doorway in the hope that he would be accepted. Now, after private tuition, he has reached third grade in tap dancing. Persistence coaxes out talent.

"James was lethargic at first," his sister told me. "Teaching him the piano, my mother used to have to push and push him to succeed. She would replace his fingers on the keys each time that he snatched them away. Sometimes he would head-bunt her with frustration. But now his piano is one of his greatest pleasures. He doesn't have the same capacity for lateral thinking as I do, but this means he is more persistent. He will forget about combing his hair or brushing his teeth and sit down at the piano and play Chopin for hours on end."

Those with Down's syndrome have much to teach us. Although it is a misplaced generalisation to assume that they are naturally of a blithe disposition — they share the same joys and sadnesses as most people — they often show an emotional frankness of response, over-riding the cynicism of a distrustful world. Those who work with the disabled often find their attentions distracted from the cosmetic fripperies of life. From the disadvantaged we can learn the arts of compassion and understanding which help to seal any civilisation together.

The staff in our mainstream schools should commit themselves to taking in children with special needs, not only for the sake of those who are disadvantaged but for the benefit of the "normal" children with whom they will grow up. As Shakespeare says: "In nature there's no blemish but the mind / None can be call'd deformed but the unkind." It is only when we accord a due dignity and a full role in society to those less advantaged than ourselves that we will be able to consider ourselves a true civilisation.



Rachel Campbell-Johnston

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Alan Coren



■ If you want a view of the inner man, I can offer you a deal

One barren morning, four centuries ago, staring out blankly over what might as well have been Cricklewood for all the good it was doing him, Sir Philip Sidney sat, as countless hacks have ever done, glumly fiddling with his word-processor, unable to get started. That it was the best word-processor on the market — plucked, you may be sure, from a really top goose — made no difference at all, since it could process only if given words to do it with, and words were just what Sir Philip didn't have; so he hunched there, as he morosely tells us, "biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite." But help, this being 1582, was on the way: Calliope, that emergency plumber of the blocked imagination, spotted a client syndicated for opening words, and did not mince her own: "Fool," said my Muse to me, "look in thy heart and write." And, in a trice, Sidney was off and running.

And now so am I. Stuck for an entrance into today's big theme, I too have decided to look in my heart and write. Indeed, I am looking in it as I write: there it is beside my desk, pumping away for all it is worth, which is rather more than I feared it was worth last week, when the video I am currently watching on my desk-side portable was shot. For the heart I am looking in is the radiant star of an angiogram undergone at the Harley Street Clinic to determine whether there was anything wrong with its coronary arteries, and since there wasn't, the clinic not only let me out again, it gave me the film as a going-home present, along with a big bunch of flowers I had thoughtfully put in my room to cheer me up while I lay waiting for the operation; although what they actually did was cheer me down, because, as I waited, I kept imagining how they would look lying on a pine lid.

But now, relieved, I find myself bang in the middle of today's big theme: for, as you know, at first light on Monday, Health Minister Gerry Malone sprang from his own fretful cot and ran round to the High Court to obtain an injunction banning the sale of a video entitled *Everyday Operations*. An anthology of the best bits, as it were, from 27 surgical procedures, this jolly item was about to be knocked out at £12.99 in video shops throughout the country to punters apparently eager to sit gobbling popcorn while they watched unwitting NHS patients having their iffy constituents poked, sliced, scooped out and bucketed.

Mr Malone thinks this is, quite literally, a bit bloody much, and he is absolutely right. For while it is perfectly understandable that the viewing public would far rather watch a lung being sectioned or a squint realigned than have to sit through *Sister Wendy's Story of Painting* or the 14th repeat of *Dad's Army*, it is manifestly outrageous that this preference should be exploited by a commercial company for fat profits of which the poor suffering stars themselves get not even a sniff. To wait six years to have your NHS hernia stapled is bad enough, without being cheated of your due percentage of the gate. Aneurin Bevan must be turning in his grave.

Which is why Gerry Malone is barking up quite the wrong tree. What he should be calling for is a comprehensive code to those consent forms one is required to sign before surgeons are let loose on one's innards: this would set out everything from the patient's cut of his cut's profits to his billing (below the surgeon's, say, but above the theatre sister's) and his rights in the event of a sequel, eg *Hip Replacement II*.

Until the necessary legislation is in place, however, it would be a great pity if the public's taste, whetted to a scalpel's edge by the current shenanigans, were to remain unsatisfied. Which is why it is so happily fortuitous that I happen to know where I can lay my hands on a little something to tide them over. It is neither very long, nor very dramatic, but it is unquestionably very horrible — this must be the dozenth time I have watched it, and, look, I have broken out in a muck sweat yet again, and an absolute snip at £2.99 for an evening's rental. Especially as, by way of an introductory offer, each subscriber will receive, absolutely free and his to keep, a full-colour Polaroid of what may well turn out to be a major ingrowing toenail.

Howard Davies explains why he can never forsake Manchester City — however badly they play

From birth to Bank, I can't kick my City

embarrassing defeats at the feet of Bolton and Stoke, and the loss of yet another failed manager — are just the latest twist of the knife. Not a crisis, not a cathartic moment promising better times around the corner, rather a further limp along the road to Accrington Stanley.

For being a Manchester City supporter is not quite like other sporting affiliations. It is not an easy row to hoe. Indeed sometimes it is close to impossible. For some years, the London branch of the supporters club, to which I belong, was excommunicated by the Manchester parent as the result of an incomprehensible internetic squabble, making it impossible for us to buy tickets in the usual way.

And that's not all. Which other club would, as City did this March, hold a sell-out 500-seat dinner to celebrate 20 years without a trophy? Which other club would, as City did in May, come

back from two goals down against Liverpool in the season's last game, then instruct the team from the bench to play for time on the basis of a misheard radio report suggesting that they needed only a draw to stay up — and then realise with only five minutes to go that they needed another goal?

Which other club, with one outstanding star player called Kinkadee, would ensure that a week before the season starts the souvenir shop has no iron-on letter Ks for its replica shirts? (My small sons, with the stoicism they will surely need in future years, settled for "GIO".)

So why bother? Why not change horses? Why not follow the example of the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Terence Burns, who forsook his roots, when North-East football appeared to be in a terminal condition a few years back, to follow then trendy QPR?

However tempting it might seem, I couldn't do it. Not just because the

Burns manoeuvre — with Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough all in the Premiership and QPR rebuilding in the Nationwide — now looks misjudged. Rather, I think, because there is a perverse satisfaction to be had from Maine Road which keeps me, and others like me, loyal through thick and thin.

My sons and I have convinced ourselves that there is something uniquely virtuous about supporting a club which offers so little return: the satisfaction earned from caring for an ungrateful relative, or tinkering for days with a bike you know you'll never ride again. An activity where the pursuit is its own reward: all foreplay, never reaching the baseline, so to speak.

We deprecate the meretricious antics of those who favour clubs which promise success, dismissing them as "glory supporters", satisfied only by the facile pleasures of goal-scoring and victory. I am blind to the purer rewards which lie in

doe-like, undemanding affection expecting no obvious reciprocation. Well, perhaps. It's the best justification we can come up with. And it carries us through the dark times — like last week, on holiday, when Cephallonian and Ithacan branches of the Manchester United fan club dogged our every landfall in the Ionian with their ubiquitous Cantona strips.

But where do we go from here? Is Manchester City now condemned to become a kind of rehabilitation programme for tarnished managers — as we learn that Bruce Rioch and Kenny Dalglish are under consideration for Alan Ball's vacated chair? Will George Graham deign to use us as the vehicle for his return? A backhanded compliment that would be. Or is Liam Gallagher being lined up — that would explain his late withdrawal from the Oasis tour of North America.

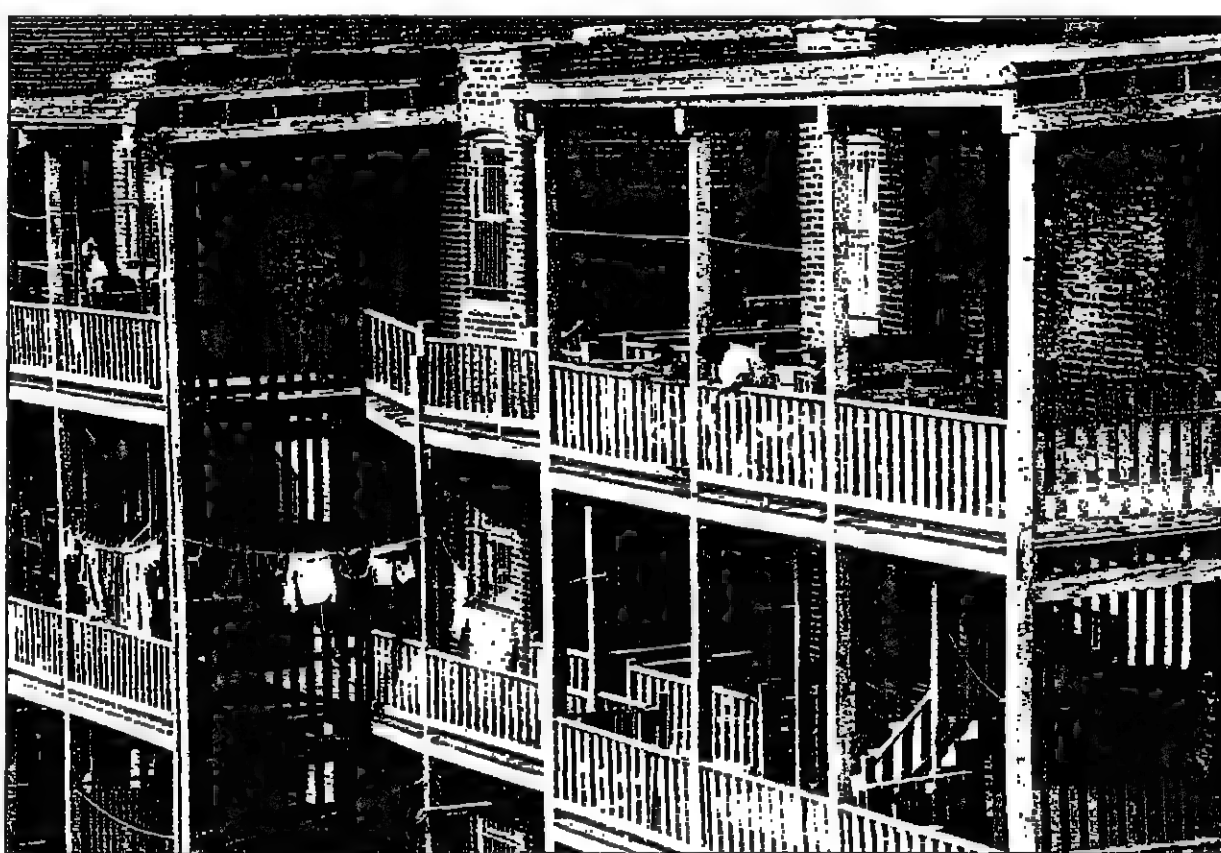
Whoever pins up the teamsheet for our next titanic struggle — against Charlton Athletic, since you ask — will have my uncritical support. Because I know that my "Buggie" godfather — alive and well in Sidmouth — is still watching me, and the condition of his service still stands.

The author is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Old Chicago's turbulent past

Saul Bellow reflects on his home town's love affair

with democracy and its dalliances with the Democrats



The old "string of industrial villages", consisted of a geometrical arrangement of distinct neighbourhoods

In the matter of presidential politics I am like most Americans — I have my preferences and opinions, but I have seldom been in touch with the godlike beings who govern. Years ago I was invited to dine at the Kennedy White House. Among the great figures to whom I was introduced was LBJ. The then Vice-President towered over me. He was a very big man dressed in a mid-night blue tuxedo. With the material that had gone into this garment one might have hung an awning over a Texas corral. His two hands covered my right in a hearty hand sandwich. All I could find to say was that George Reedy, his press secretary, had been my classmate in the Thirties. Mr Johnson seemed highly offended. Did I have no more than this to offer the second most powerful man in America? He glared at his aides, as if to order them, "Take this jerk away, pronto!"

I was not to see him again until 1964, when he was nominated at the Democratic convention in Atlantic City. This time, I carried a press pass. I seem to remember that I was commissioned to write my impressions for a national paper. Atlantic City had not yet been revived by gambling resorts. The town looked poor, shabby. The boardwalk needed repairing. Beach sand had drifted into the streets.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, who had been knocked out of the Democratic race four years earlier by JFK and who was expected to be Johnson's running-mate, had not as yet been told by the President that he was to be on the ticket. He was waiting — waiting, waiting. Shades of anxiety hung over him. His pleasant, ruddy, politician's face was not good at impassivity. His aides, kindly and helpful, played ping-pong with him. "Lyndon is dangling him," they told the press. The reporters could see this for themselves. The ball rattling on the green table might have been the bouncing ball of Hubert Horatio Humphrey. A decent liberal democrat, grinning and bearing it, he was hollow with humiliation.

Time was now very short, and at the last moment the presidential summons came. Humphrey flew down to Washington for formal notification. Soon afterwards, presidential helicopters landed in Atlantic City. Humphrey would run with the President.

There is, after all, no reason why our national leaders should be nice guys. Johnson seemed to be a Coriolanus — a fighting man who did not like the crowd. He would not expose his battle scars to the voters. He averted his face from them. You saw only his profile. It was my guess that the real Johnson was at his best in conference, behind closed doors. But my opinions on such matters are no better than the next man's. My experience in public affairs is very limited.

At the age of 12, in 1927, I studied mail-boxes for a man running for a minor Chicago office. The precinct captain paid me 25 cents — a significant piece of change in the days when the price of a hot-dog, with all the fixings, was a nickel. The precinct captain's old mother was

sitting in the kitchen when the printed flyers were handed out to the kids he had recruited. "Why are you doing this?" she said. "Mother, he came through for me when I was up against it. I owe him full support. I gave the man my pledge." This balding, fair-haired man, heavy in the back, was sweating with earnestness. He was a stand-up guy, he was much moved. But of course he was a party man and belonged to the machine.

Of course we followed presidential politics. Chicago was often chosen by the great parties for their national conventions. It was in Chicago that Lincoln was nominated by the Republicans. General George McClellan was chosen in Chicago by the Democrats to run against Lincoln in 1864. In Chicago, Teddy Roosevelt fought Taft for the Republican nomination. FDR would be nominated here in 1932. Chicago was the great host city. We were all aware of its historic importance, we knew how consequential, how momentous, how central Chicago was — the heart and vital core of America. Calvin Coolidge had told us that the business of America was business — and hotels, restaurants and department stores did indeed thrive on national conventions. An official was appointed to meet distinguished travellers at the Dearborn Street Station. Greeter Gaw

the newspapers called him. He wore a vanilla-cream suit and a broadbrimmed white hat and was photographed welcoming Hollywood stars, big-time politicians, presidential hopefuls, baseball players and beauty queens. "Boost. Don't Knock," we were told. "Lay down your hammer, grab a flag."

While voters saw the local politicians as pitchmen for snake oil, they took national politics seriously. They were, in retrospect, surprisingly patriotic.

Chicago was once described as a string of industrial villages. Back in the Twenties and Thirties it was exactly that — a city of German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, Bohemian, Scandinavian, Jewish, Greek, and Negro neighbourhoods. The layout was geometrical — like a doodle by Euclid himself: eight city blocks to the mile; every fourth street a car-line. Running north, south and west were elevated trains. From these, the passengers viewed the backyards and the wooden stairs and porches of the standard sixflats of the city. The commonest trees were cottonwood elms; the commonest flower the geranium. The city was famous for its slaughterhouses and packing plants. "Hogbutcher of the world," as Carl Sandburg wrote (as

much an advertising slogan as a line of verse). The huge mail-order houses — Montgomery Ward on Chicago Avenue, Sears Roebuck on Arthington Street — had their national headquarters here. Agricultural machinery was exported from Chicago to every part of the world. The steel mills blasted night and day; the drop-forges (punch presses) made a thought-annihilating thunder.

In an election when, say, Herbert Hoover was nominated by the Republicans and Al Smith by the Democrats, you learnt that the string of industrial villages — the melting pot, if you prefer — did take national politics seriously.

I remember going to see a school friend, Joey Sugarman, on Division Street. From the convention hall the radio was broadcasting the traditional roll call of the states. Joey's father, a big, bearded, Orthodox Jew, a *shochet* or ritual slaughterer, was calling out the names of the states in alphabetical order, singing them out like a cantor, just ahead of the radio. "... Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts..." Very red in the face, very proud of his citizenship.

On Memorial Day, Polish veterans of the First World War gathered in uniform at the Division Street entrance to Humboldt Park. During the Twenties, old men who had fought in the Civil War

marched (some of them supported by their sons and grandsons) on Michigan Avenue. There was a Civil War museum in the Public Library building with regimental banners and arms and mementoes. The fathers of some of our teachers had fought in famous battles. Mrs Jenkins at the Sabin School was the daughter of a soldier who had survived the Andersonville prison-camp. Immigrant children were often passionate readers of Civil War history. They argued over the campaigns of Grant and Sherman. They were often highly emotional about Lincoln. Some of them were to take their children later to visit Civil War battlegrounds.

Our own grandparents, locked up in the Pale of Settlement on Russia's western frontier, had never so much as heard of place names like Antietam or Vicksburg. But their descendants, the children of my generation, were educated to believe in the American project. It was presented to them in a language foreign to their ancestors; it encouraged them to assume that as free persons, politically and legally equal, they were parties to a rational covenant that made the history of the United States of America their own history. This was our naive adolescent conviction. What we learnt in Civics and in American History classes would have to be revised and modified, but it was never to be reversed.

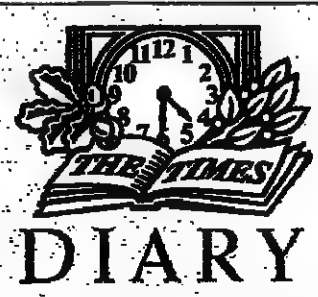
I am well aware that to hard modern thinkers all this will sound perversely simple-minded, sentimental, nostalgic. Modern cosmopolitans and philosophical sophisticates will remind me that the culture of Chicago, this string of industrial villages called a city, was too ugly and clumsy to be anything but a non-culture and that the neighbourhoods where immigrant peasants and labourers lived were more parochial than the Eastern European and Balkan villages they came from. On our side of the Atlantic these arid working-class neighbourhoods in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, and so on were also rich in hatred and viciousness; but the higher culture developed in Germany (or Russia or France) did not keep the Nazis, and the populations of the countries their armies occupied, from participating in the murder of millions of men, women and children.

Our liberal American society (bourgeois-liberal, if you like) has not been guilty of such horrors. It is obvious, therefore, that the US, viewed by no small number of Europeans as a dumping ground for everything the Old World wanted to cast out, has been extraordinarily fortunate in its politics. We have had some dud presidents, but there have been no Hitlers here and no Stalins. With all its disorders, corruptions, bureaucratic idiocies, its chaotic or nihilistic state of feelings, thoughts, passions, democracy here makes more sense and perhaps is more rational than its philosophical founders might have thought possible in a country so huge and so mixed.

Health scare

EVIDENCE of an almost unimaginable event in the history of Margaret Thatcher emerges in a television series this week. It highlights the day that the Iron Lady lost her nerve.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, talks openly of her wobbles about reforms of the National Health Service before her fall from power. She worried that the proposals would be too unpopular.



In the BBC television series *Safe With Us*, which starts on Sunday, Clarke talks frankly about his time as Health Secretary. Whitehall mandarins fear that he may have overstepped the mark — his comments were made after he banished a minder from the Department of Health from the interview room.

"She finally lost her nerve... she was getting very worried about how you could fight an election with these battles going on with the doctors," he says. Health service reform, he continues, sounding rather like Macbeth, "had to be done quickly or it would never have been done at all... I admit we steamrollered it through." Clarke persuaded Thatcher but

she was keeping her options open according to Peter Griffiths, former deputy chief executive of the NHS: "She stood up right at the end of the meeting and looked the Secretary of State in the eye and said quite explicitly 'If we decide to proceed with these reforms, let nobody in the room be in any doubt who will be held responsible if they don't work' — and walked out."

Style leader

ISN'T it wonderful that Tony Blair has been voted the most admired man of the summer and a stylish sex symbol by a racy Italian magazine for well-heeled ladies?

The news coincided with an article in a Sunday supplement about his wife Cherie. It pictured her devotedly helping him dress for a dinner by attaching a clip-on bow-tie. Personally, I've admired the Labour leader's sense of style ever since I came across this picture of him relaxing at home in a stunning combination of flip-flops and white socks, set off by weathered jeans and a Jermyn Street tie.

Fruit and nut

YESTERDAY'S hijack drama brought to mind the steely determination with which Margaret

Thatcher saw off a similar crisis in 1982 when a hijacked Air Tanzania Boeing landed at Stansted. Her secret weapon? Christmas cake.

At the height of the action, she marched into the Cabinet Office briefing room where security chiefs and ministers were weighing the options. Appalled to see that they



Italian fashion idol

hadn't eaten, she popped back to No 10 and picked up three Christmas cakes which had been sent to her by loyal constituents. Refueled, the security wallahs quickly came to a decision on their course of action and the hijack problem was solved.

A colourful era on the polo field has drawn to a close. At the age of 64, Major Ron Ferguson has decided he has played his final chukka after a career of 42 years. The father of the Duchess of York, who represented England in the 1960s and early '70s was the Prince of Wales's polo manager until being released in the wake of publicity surrounding life out of the saddle. "No more matches this year, so that's it now," he says.

Booked again

ERIC CANTONA, the footballer, kickboxer, film actor and *soi-disant* philosopher has a new incarnation: commentator on contemporary fiction. He has been singing the praises of a gritty new novel about a teenage footballer knocked down by a drunk driver. Essex author Jon Eagle, a veteran behind the bars of Chelmsford pubs, asked Cantona to run his eye over the proof. "I enjoyed reading it very much. Red is a fine example of



Mollie and Josh: pioneers of livestock art

contemporary fiction and an excellent novel," was the verdict of the Manchester United captain, who until recently displayed only the most hesitant command of English.

Graze in

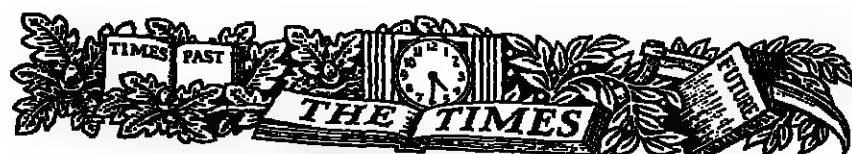
ART NEWS: a gallery is to open in West London with plans for a live cow (NB Daniel Hirst) grazing in pasture as its central exhibit. Henry Dent-Brocklehurst's sister Mollie is one of three partners behind

P-Inc, the gallery off London's Lad-broke Grove.

Mollie has cut a swathe in art circles in New York, where she works for a gallery. With business partner Josh Briggs, she has chosen the artist Christopher Landoni to open with a show "focusing on the relationship between humans and animals and their environment". Not a drop of formaldehyde, she insists. And definitely no BSE.

P-H-S

John Miles 1550



PRISON DISCIPLINE

The penal system has benefited from reform

The search for a scapegoat is natural in politics. The botched release of 86 prisoners last week, the rapid reversal of the policy and the ensuing uncertainty have precipitated demands for the resignation of Richard Tilt, the Director of the Prison Service, and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. The paper chase of documents related to the release policy does not so far lead definitively to any single culprit. Instead, it again provokes broader questions about the relationship between the ministers who set the policies and the men who run the prisons.

Since the Prison Service became a Next Steps Agency in April 1993 it has attracted special controversy. Reformers faced a coalition of vested interests who were upset by the move and anxious to protect the culture of a failing system. The then Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, recognised the truth: that prison governors were inclined to indulge the Prison Officers' Association and that prison officers were inclined to indulge the inmates. As in so many areas of the public sector, the Government was right to tackle institutions that were run for the convenience of those on the inside and not in the interests of those on the outside.

In health, education and social security, the devolution of responsibility from Whitehall has produced real efficiency gains. Attitudes have changed as private sector expertise has supplanted public sector complacency. Market disciplines have seen resources allocated more wisely and managers act more imaginatively.

The Prison Service has been taken down the same path, albeit at a more faltering pace. There have been improvements since agency status was established: escapes are on a downward trend, conditions have generally improved and money has been used more effectively. These reforms have been accompanied by a welcome emphasis from Michael Howard on the need for prisons to

make their first duty the protection of the public. The combination, however, of structural change and a criminal justice system geared to incarcerating more dangerous offenders has placed strains on prisons.

Reform is rarely easy. The more pressing the need for change, the more difficult it can be to enact. Prison officers, anxious to preserve their privileges, backed by a penal establishment unhappy that decades of liberal orthodoxy were being challenged by Mr Howard, have sought to exploit events to derail government policy. Neither lobby has shown itself as sensitive to public concern about crime as ministers. Both deserve to have their complaints treated with a proper scepticism.

The creation of executive agencies was designed not only to improve efficiency in the public sector but transparency too. The occasionally blurred borders between ministers and mandarins were to be replaced by clear divisions of responsibility: the Government was to frame policy and executives were to oversee its implementation. It has not always been easy to define exactly where the division rests. Confusion has handed political ammunition to the Government's enemies. But the creation of agencies has at least made matters more open. Contrary to current myth, ministers were previously only too happy to shelter behind the pinstriped camouflage of their civil servants.

There is room for refinement. Agency executives could make themselves more accountable to public representatives, possibly through the Commons Select Committee system. But the best safeguard of the public interest is likely to be a more eager embrace of the philosophy that has driven reform. The gradual growth of market pressures, governed by effective regulation, is the most effective guarantee of improved performance. The Government should not lose sight of that essential principle.

THE BRITISH WAY

Safety for crew and passengers, stiff penalties for the crime

The calm and highly professional handling at Stansted airport of the hijacked Sudan Air flight has averted the death or injury of nearly 200 passengers and crew. The peaceful outcome vindicates the Government's decision to accede to the hijackers' demands to be flown to Britain. Hijackers have blown up aircraft in the past, as the Iraqis who seized this plane had threatened to do if grounded at Larnaca. MPs who say that permitting it to land here puts Britain at risk of becoming a prime destination for future hijackers should ask themselves whether, simply because there were no British citizens on board, they would have been content for that reason to put the lives of these people at risk.

The "epidemic" theory of hijacking takes little note of the great rarity today of a crime that in the early 1970s accounted for a third of international terrorist incidents. Would-be hijackers have been deterred by anti-terrorist technology and by the remarkably united determination of governments to make this a crime that never pays. Greatly improved airport security has been backed by exemplary penalties, exacted whether or not the political motives of the hijacker would otherwise inspire sympathy.

Of the two previous hijackings which Stansted has had to deal with, in 1975 and 1982, the first originated in Manchester. In the second case, an Air Tanzania Boeing 737 had landed successively at Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Jeddah and Athens before the hijackers gave themselves up at Stansted. None of the countries involved viewed the arrival of that aircraft with equanimity: each decided, as Britain did yesterday, that the safety of passengers must be paramount.

Britain has never been a destination of choice. Provided that yesterday's Iraqi

hijackers are treated with the rigour that their crime demands, there is no reason why it should become one now. The seven men arrested are expected to seek political asylum. They may well argue that they never intended any harm to either crew or passengers and that their sole purpose was to seek refuge in this country. They may be entirely sincere. The Home Secretary should turn a deaf ear. Whatever the motive — and Iraqis have better founded fears of persecution than the nationals of almost any other country — hijacking is a crime that can never be other than disproportionate. It should be excluded from the curious provision in British law that makes it possible for those accused of criminal acts to claim asylum.

The easy option for Mr Howard is to accede to demands to expel them to Sudan. This he should also resist. They have been arrested in this country and under British law have the right to a fair trial. To expel them to Sudan would be tantamount to summary execution. Sudan's record of respect for due process is appalling and Iraq's even worse. Because of the intimate relations between Sudan and Iraq, they could be delivered over to Baghdad where torture and execution would be their certain fate.

But they must be subjected to the full severity of British justice. The Crown should seek the maximum penalty for hijacking, which in this country is life imprisonment. If convicted, they should serve their full sentences. The Essex police have confirmed Britain's reputation for bringing hijacking incidents to a bloodless conclusion. That is a matter for pride. It is equally important now to reinforce Britain's reputation as a country that does not weaken before this abhorrent form of criminal blackmail.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

A mathematician praises madness

The co-existence of genius and madness has been long recognised. More controversial is the claim that insanity can itself be an aid to genius. Yesterday John Nash, the eminent mathematician, insisted that his 15 years of schizophrenia had improved his output. Delivering a paper to the 10th World Congress of Psychiatry in Madrid, Professor Nash admitted to his youth to having suffered from acute paranoia, hearing voices and telephone calls in his head and seeing crypto-communists everywhere. Although he was intermittently kept in hospital, his mathematics went from strength to strength. This was the result, he claimed, of being able to transcend normal rational thought and engage in "ultra-logical thinking".

For a game theorist such as Professor Nash, this seems an odd claim. Game theory, after all, works on the assumption that players will make rational choices. Economists using the theory have to assume that companies want to maximise their profits; arms control theorists have to assume that countries do not want to be obliterated. Perhaps the absence of rational thought elsewhere in Professor Nash's mind allowed him to compensate in the one area that required it.

According to psychiatrists, mental illness on the whole destroys creativity while a propensity to mental illness encourages it. Borderline schizophrenics may be extremely creative, as their state of mind triggers unexpected trains of thought and unusual

ways of looking at things. These are just the leaps of imagination that mathematicians need. The illness has a large genetic component, and studies have shown that relatives of schizophrenics tend to be more creative than average.

Abstract mathematics, and its cousin, abstract philosophy, are lonely professions. Unlike science, they cannot be pursued in a team. The two disciplines tend, therefore, to attract introverted people who do not always find it easy to sustain normal relationships. Some may even be on the cusp of mental instability. Professor Nash cited the examples of mathematicians such as Alan Turing, Kurt Gödel and Emil Post. Isaac Newton underwent a period of schizophrenia in which he accused Locke of trying to embezzle him with women. Those who are most gifted at abstract thought often find their intellectual prowess matched by emotional inadequacy. Among those philosophers who never married are Newton himself, Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Leibniz, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Kierkegaard.

Most poignantly, Professor Nash questioned whether "curing" mad geniuses was even desirable. In an echo of Peter Shaffer's *Equus*, he said that a return to rationality could be the source of "great pain", particularly if the sufferer's talent were thereby diluted. Luckily this mathematician regained his mind without losing his brain. In 1994, he won the ultimate accolade: a Nobel Prize.

Remand time as part of sentence

From His Honour Joseph Dean

Sir, Is it possible that the lawyers advising the Prison Service have overlooked Section 104 (the interpretation) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (letters, August 26)? Section 104 (2) states that:

For the purposes of any reference in this Act, however expressed, to the term of imprisonment... to which a person has been sentenced or which, or part of which, he has served, consecutive terms and terms which are wholly or partly concurrent shall be treated as a single term.

This can only mean that the length of any sentence of imprisonment which, under Section 67 of the Act, is to be reduced by any period already spent in custody, refers to the total length of the sentence passed by the judge. Thus remand time can only be deducted once against the totality of the sentence.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall,
West Brabourne, Ashford, Kent,
August 26.

From Mr Colin Farrington

Sir, The causes of the repeated financial and administrative problems in the Prison Service are:

1. Misguided attempts to detach the service from its natural home within the Home Office, with its constitutional, criminal justice and legal expertise, and to pretend that it can be "operationally independent".

2. Appointments to its top positions of former prison governors who entered what they thought would be a social-service career, but who have finished up as administrators.

The Prison Service needs to return to a proper framework of accountability, run by career civil servants who can maintain a critical distance from staff in the field, who know how to do effective battle with the Treasury and who understand how to sustain a proper working relationship with ministers.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN FARRINGTON
(Assistant Secretary,
Home Office, 1985-88),
Leigh House,
18 Upper Rock Gardens,
Brighton, East Sussex,
August 26.

Access to the Bar

From Mr Roger Everest

Sir, The Times is to be congratulated for publishing Neil Addison's article, "Easy access to the Bar" — as there once was (Law, August 20).

Conclusively it blows away the myth that the defence solicitor has a vital part to play in the administration of justice. In my 25 years' experience as an advocate in criminal law the accused is more often than not badly served by his solicitor — often recruited for him by the police while he is in custody.

Mr Addison's argument for allowing those accused of crime to have direct access to a barrister is unanswerable. This will become increasingly more practical as barristers join the Internet.

Yours truly,
ROGER EVEREST
(Barrister-at-law),
PO Box 32,
Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan,
August 20.

Student barristers

From Mr Eoin Fowell

Sir, Your report of August 13 attributing the sharp fall in the pass rate for student barristers to poverty among the student body. Having just completed the course, I disagree.

Comparatively few students take up part-time work, many preferring instead to claim unemployment and even housing benefit, attesting that the course involves less than 25 hours study per week.

There is no evidence that those with extra jobs do less well, and anecdotal evidence actually suggests the reverse. Last year for example Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP, successfully completed the course, despite the distractions of the Liberal Democrat Economic Affairs portfolio.

In any event, funding has changed little recently, so it is a poor excuse for the drastic decline in the number of passes. The most obvious explanation, much as the Dean of the Bar School would have us believe otherwise, lies in the selection policy for the Bar vocational course, which has changed twice in the last two years, each time for the worse.

In its latest manifestation, once again the work of outside educationalists, a candidate's selection is heavily determined by his or her degree result. While this sounds fair, it rests on the fashionable assumption that all degrees of a given class are of equal merit, irrespective of the institution awarding the degree, or of how long ago it was awarded, or even in what subject it was taken.

I would have hoped that the dismal results of this policy would have prompted a rethink, rather than simply more pleas for funding.

Yours faithfully,
EOIN FOWELL,
4 Loakes House,
Loakes Road,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
August 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Practical means to clean up the air

From the Director of the British Geological Survey

Sir, Given that restricting the use of cars is not seen as a viable option for improving air quality in British cities, I hope that the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a fuel (report, August 22; letters, August 24) will receive serious consideration. I used an LPG car for several months last year in Australia and found its performance excellent and the running costs half that of a conventional petrol-driven car.

LPG produces no particulates, no benzene, no 1,3-butadiene and little, if any, sulphur dioxide or nitrogen dioxide. Its byproducts are carbon dioxide and water. The range of a car on LPG is about 200 miles. Holland has been using LPG for road transport for many years. In eastern Australia most taxis and an increasing number of cars are powered by it (there, LPG is about half the price of petrol, a consequence of low taxation).

The cost of converting a conventional petrol-driven car to LPG is probably of the order of £1,000 to £2,000, giving a pay-back period of perhaps two to four years depending on the distance travelled and the cost of LPG. New cars with dual LPG and petrol are even more cost-effective and convenient.

Like all fossil fuels LPG is a finite resource, but the UK currently produces more LPG from the North Sea than it uses. In 1994 we exported more than a million metric tonnes. The use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) may be an option for the future as there are vast resources of natural gas in the UK and worldwide. However, there are major technical problems to be overcome before LNG is an alternative to LPG for transportation.

To encourage the shift to LPG the Government should consider making a commitment to continue taxing it at a lower level than petrol or diesel. Any cost to the Exchequer in forgone income would probably be more than offset by the savings to the National Health Service from the decrease in

the number of cases of asthma and cancer.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. COOK, Director,
British Geological Survey,
Kingsley Dunham Centre,
Keyworth, Nottingham,
August 22.

From the Chief Executive of London First

Sir, In unveiling its national air-quality strategy the Government has addressed an issue which has been neglected for too long. Air pollution in London, for example, is now at unacceptably high levels, affecting Londoners' health and our competitiveness as a world-class city.

The Government admits, however, that there will still be up to a 10 per cent shortfall on its own targets for reducing the pollutants mainly found in diesel. London First believes that with some help from the Treasury, cleaner fuels and technologies can play a vital role in closing this gap.

A comprehensive package of fiscal incentives, including alterations to the current fuel duty and vehicle excise duty, are needed to encourage the greater use of cleaner fuels such as ultra-low sulphur diesels, which would reduce harmful emissions.

Industry has already taken a lead in tackling the growing problem of air pollution in the capital. Over 100,000 vehicles have signed up to London First's Clean Air Charter, a series of practical steps designed to reduce emissions from company fleets.

Now Government must do its bit by helping this process along. The success of the differential fuel duty in promoting the use of unleaded petrol is testimony to the effectiveness of fiscal incentives. November's Budget will be an opportune time for the Chancellor to deploy them here.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN O'BRIEN,
Chief Executive, London First,
Caxton House, 6 Tothill Street, SW1,
August 22.

TV science and the paranormal

From the Director General of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, A recent television, particularly on television, to forgo scientific scrutiny and explain unusual events in terms of the paranormal, is encouraging the anti-science culture that is threatening the prosperity of this country.

Earlier this month we were shown a self-styled expert with no apparent credentials claim "spontaneous human combustion" to be a nuclear reaction, without evidence being provided on radioactivity readings.

A disturbed couple, confessing they had had an interest in the occult, looked to "hidden forces" to explain their large electricity bill. No systematic check was shown to quantitatively identify the imbalance between meter reading and power consumed by individual appliances.

In another house, strange footsteps were reportedly heard, but no evidence was provided to eliminate more mundane reasons for the noise, such as expansion and contraction of the domestic heating system.

Finally, claims were made from a little-known university that "lucky" people were able to influence the throw of dice. No hard data were given, nor comment provided on the statistical significance of results.

All four examples were from a single episode of BBC's *Out of This World*, and could easily have persuaded viewers that science was lacking in its ability to explain such incidents. Greater scrutiny of witnesses, and application of scientific methodology, however, would have dismissed all of them instantly as yarns.

This is not to say the science-based community is infallible. Inaccurate observation, biased interpretation and confused reporting, even within what we consider conventional science, has lowered credibility. Reports on "cold fusion" and the handling of BSE are two examples, and some may consider "life on Mars" a third.

Nevertheless, surely programme-makers have a responsibility to be more questioning, rather than serving fiction as fact, and encourage us all to exercise more scrutiny on technical issues. As an informed public, we can then challenge more effectively the products and services we receive, a key success factor in the most prosperous economies of the world.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. PIKE,
Director General,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1,
August 20.

A softer option

From Mrs Diana Davenport

Sir, The salesman attending to my inquiry about replacement windows was formerly a teacher at a large comprehensive school. The filter in charge of ensuring operations was previously a houseman at a general hospital.

Heavy workloads featured in the disenchantment of both men, exacerbated by weariness in the wake of classroom indiscipline by the ex-teacher and prostration following interminable hours on duty by the ex-doctor. Fragmentation of family life also featured.

Self-preservation, at what cost to society?

Yours faithfully,
DIANA DAVENPORT,
Firs Farm House,
Great Rollright, Oxfordshire,
August 27.

Titan Business scheme

From Professor Patrick Minford

Sir, Bernard Levin criticises me today in his usual colourful way ("Fools and their money", August 23) for being willing to give advice to Titan Business Club.

There are two issues here. One is the nature of Titan's current and possible future activities, which are the subject of court proceedings; obviously I cannot comment on these but I would merely say, as I have said publicly before, that it is possible to sell investments using multi-layered marketing incentives without breaking the law and that the Titan scheme, with its manifest faults, could be reconstructed along these lines.

The other issue is the right in a free society for people to give and receive professional advice; presumably Bernard Levin would concede that right to economists, as to lawyers, doctors

Human tragedy as spectator sport

From the Director of ToC H

Sir, It is rare, if ever, that a day passes without a report in your pages covering the unfolding of yet another human tragedy. Whether it is the plight of the civilian population in Chechnya, the terror of young children incarcerated in a Belgian cellar, or the stabbing of a priest in Liverpool.

Whilst politicians and so-called experts pronounce on what is wrong with our society, and what is needed to reinvigorate the traditional values and standards they believe we have lost, I am left wondering how long it will be before we, the ordinary people, follow the example of the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn (obituary, August 20; letter, August 22) and stand up to be counted on these issues.

Ironically it is often these same politicians and "experts" who are the ones to argue the case for further liberalism without, apparently, any thought to the consequences in terms of the human misery that so often follows.

As we run up to the next general election here in the United Kingdom the main political parties vie with each other to champion the cause of re-establishing moral standards and family values. But can they be believed? The examples that are given to us by leaders both here and overseas hardly leads one to this conclusion.

The media must also bear some responsibility for turning the sort of issues that I have referred to into what one might best describe as a spectator sport as far as the man in the street is concerned. No wonder that organisations like ToC H, endeavouring to uphold moral standards through their work, the values and standards that others say they yearn for, have to struggle to be heard.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE LYDDIARD,
Director, ToC H,
1 Forest Close, Wendover,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
August 24.

But is it art?

From Mr Roy Barley

Sir, During a visit to the Rijksmuseum I was privileged to stand before the portrait of Maria Trip painted by Rembrandt in 1639. It is an exquisite work of art and whilst gazing at it for 40 minutes or so I was moved to tears by the breathtaking beauty and technical brilliance of the great master. It was an uplifting, spiritual experience.

Contrast this if you will with my recent visit to the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy where there was hardly a painting, in my opinion, that was worth more than a cursory glance.

I have attended all of the Summer Exhibitions for the last 20 years and have witnessed the decline in the quality of the exhibits. Why so? What has happened to the art of painting? Surely the selection committee have lost their way (if not their marbles).

This annual self-indulgence has nothing to do with art any more. Apparently it is far easier to produce a randomly executed daub than to develop the hand-and-eye co-ordination necessary to understand any object thoroughly; and schools have a lot to answer for.

May I suggest that all those pursuing art as a meaningful career visit Amsterdam.

Yours faithfully,
ROY BARLEY,
Walnuts, Aulton Place,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
August 26.

Crown and State

From Mr M. E. Pease

Sir, My grandfather, Edward Pease who, with Frank Podmore, held the foundation meeting of the Fabian Society at his rooms at 17 Osmeburgh Street, NW1, on October 24, 1883, told me that the purposes of Fabian pamphlets were gently to rock the ship of state and to promote public discussion.

Judging by your headline (later edition, August 20), "Royal Family prepares to change rules", the society retains the skill 113 years on.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. PEASE,
13 Reynolds Avenue,
Colchester, Essex,
August 20.

Smart cards

From Mr Selwyn Ward

Sir, The flurry over what symbols to print on our new national identity cards (letters, August 20, 23) is proof positive that the Government really has lost its market zeal.

Never mind national and European flags or coats of arms, whatever happened to commercial sponsorship? Surely a radical government should be encouraging the market to compete. What price the Coca-Cola card or the Virgin Visa? Better still Camelot might bid for the franchise and we could all carry around their jolly crossed-fingers logo. What fun! Intrusion officers will have scrutinising dated identicard photos and grudgingly accepting that "it could be you".

Yours sincerely,
SELWYN WARD,
2 Newstead Avenue, Orpington, Kent,
August 24.

Business letters, page 25

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

TV boss explains why our top comedies flop in the US

Sit-com returns to Edinburgh

Baving the rain and the bagpipes, once again I face the annual Edinburgh television festival. The sight of the bar at The George is Danzig, those massed, tense young faces yearning for a job, for a lunch, even for their name to be spoken aloud in front of a person of importance. "Now," said one after achieving this modest triumph, "I won't have to wait two months for an appointment."

But then comes the reward. This is the answer to why so many English sit-coms flop in the United States. As the producer Caryn Mandabach from New York explains, in language as sassily self-deprecating as one of the characters in her shows (*Cosby*, *Roseanne*): "We don't do working-class comedies. We don't like comedies about poor people. We are afraid to look at people who don't have money."

The only blue-collar people we're allowed to see are cops.

Thus *All In The Family*, the American version of *Till Death Do Us Part*, had to be elevated to the middle class so that Archie Bunker, the Alf Garnett character, could make his bigoted jokes.

But surely *Cheers*, an American hit, is full of bar loungers? Mandabach has the answer for that too: "Dumb is OK. But we don't like losers. To us, Victor Meldrew seems like a loser. We will not have that in our country." As for any American counterpart to *Porridge*, Mandabach shudders, thinking of her audience: "You would not want to see anybody in prison."

Fawlty Towers flopped, despite attempts to rework the formula, for a different reason: "In America you can never show a husband who is weak." A newer entry, *Men Behaving Badly*, can't miss, says Mandabach. "Men behave badly everywhere." But how depressing it is, when we are shown the version redone American-style, to see all the naughty bits snipped out.

Suddenly the global market for all those glorious BBC programmes, envisioned by John Birt in the festival's MacTaggart Lecture on Friday, looks less comforting. So the BBC does need a rise in its licence fee. The fee is too low for what people get for it.

But even before Sunday, when three recently resigned BBC executives blew out of the water any claim that today's BBC is lean and efficient, Mr Birt had doomed his own plea for a higher fee.

The plea looked bold. Perhaps, as Roger Bolton — ex-BBC, now independent — said in his barbed introduction to the MacTaggart Lecture, Mr Birt, just reappointed for four years, is like an American

President entering his second term. He has no need to win another election.

Still, Mr Birt is supposed to be politically shrewd. So how do you get assent to an unpopular proposition? Not by arguing that your BBC needs more money in order to develop new digital services for which the viewers will have to pay extra. Not by claiming how many millions of pounds have been saved by your own miraculous economies. The politicians will simply say: "Perform more miracles, then."

And not by dismissing, with a back-of-the-hand wave, the heartfelt fears of thousands that your reforms are jeopardising the independence of the World Service. Mr Birt said the service was safe with him: "And it is extraordinary that anyone should suggest otherwise." If unpalatable truths are to be

braved, the Director-General might declare that television and radio are now such essentials of life that the social services should assist those who can't afford to pay their BBC licence fee.

But by Sunday afternoon it is too late. "The bloated, inefficient BBC that history bequeathed us," on which Mr Birt looked back with such disdain, is shown to be alive and well. A packed hall of rocks with laughter as the just-departed Nick Elliott, Michael Atwell and Tim Gardam tell tales of a BBC with twice as many people as it needs, many carving anti-Birt slogans into the men's room woodwork, walking on tables in their socks, commissioning films that will never be made or attending management courses on how to cope with bereavement. The prayer seems to be for a John Birt to descend from the heavens and miraculously clean the place up.

Mr Gardam speaks sadly of the BBC's "culture of foreboding". Kate Adie, at home in London, can have no foreboding that she is to be attacked at Edinburgh by the television head of BBC Scotland for an inappropriately forensic tone at Dundee. Are we witnessing a Machiavellian BBC attempt to discredit Miss Adie? A later apology notwithstanding, she is thought to be out of favour for not being enough of a specialist to suit the prevailing ethos.

Even more suspiciously, in another session, David Elstein, of BSkyB, wonders aloud if Mr Birt's controversial licence-fee request was not deliberately designed to divert debate away from the controversy over the World Service and other structural changes. Maybe not. But that certainly will be its effect.



BRENDA MADDOX

Is Kate Thornton's arrival in the editor's chair at 22 a sign of the times, asks Dominic Kennedy

When Kate Thornton was elevated to the Editor's chair of *Smash Hits* at the callow age of 22, it seemed to many as if wisdom, experience, maturity and patience had become virtues of the past.

Could the woman cruelly nicknamed "Philadelphia", because her voice supposedly resembles the high-pitched woman in the soft cheese advertisements, really be in charge of Britain's most important magazine for the lucrative teenage market?

Empap, the publisher, has gambled that her youth and enthusiasm will compensate for any lack of the guile and knowledge that comes with advancing years. It follows similar chances taken by a number of leading magazines and newspapers.

Mandi Norwood turned *Company* into a roaring success after taking over at 25 and has now turned to the greater challenge of running *Cosmopolitan*. Her successor, Fiona McIntosh, was only 29 when appointed.

In Fleet Street, Piers Morgan has become a serial youngest editor, snatching the *News of the World* at 28 and leaving to rescue the *Daily Mirror* when he was still only 30.

Their precocious success has been met with less than universal enthusiasm by older, overlooked colleagues, shocked to learn they may be considered over the hill if they were born before the era of colour television and moon walks.

Miss Thornton has spent almost her entire career, all four years of it, as the butt of gibes about her age and inexperience. She started at the *Sunday*



Can Kate Thornton's youth and talent triumph over inexperience?

Mirror magazine as a work placement girl from the London College of Printing. On the day she finished her examinations, she began a job there on £10,500 a year. The newspaper took advantage of her youth. "They said: 'You are young, you know where to buy drugs, off you go.'"

Miss Thornton moved to the *Daily*

Mirror where she launched a showbusiness column aimed at younger readers. There, her colleagues without columns made no secret of their opinion that she must have ideas above her station.

"It was always the stuffed shirts. Old bullies with chips on their shoulder who didn't think a young woman with

blonde hair should be working in that kind of environment. They usually came from the back bench area. I absolutely refused to tolerate that. A lot of people at the *Mirror* would say I was difficult. When I first arrived nobody could understand that I had been given this job purely on the merit of my work. There must have been something else I had done to get that job, if you get my drift. Walking into a very long office knowing there were whispers and rumours just made me laugh."

Then Mr Morgan arrived to run the newspaper. "Age had always been an issue. When Piers arrived it stopped being an issue. If they bullied me for it they would have had to bully him for it and nobody is going to bully the editor. Piers is a real role model for me."

She also worked under Ms McIntosh, who was deputy features editor at the *Mirror*. "Every female executive I have reported to or worked with has been absolutely brilliant. Fiona McIntosh was superb, absolutely supportive, understanding but professional at the same time."

After hearing that *Smash Hits* — "the Bible of my teenage years" — was available, Miss Thornton spoke with an Empap executive. She had to endure ten hours of interviews before the publishers were convinced she should get the job.

"I am younger than anybody on the staff bar the editorial assistant. It certainly hasn't been an issue at *Smash Hits*. I have never sensed any animosity. There is nobody over 30, obviously, because it is a youth title. The team I have in place has been put together to complement my strengths and weaknesses." It looks as if the young editor is here to stay. All that the older generation can do is to wait for their juvenile bosses to make the occasional pratfall and say it was all inevitable. The omens for young editors are exceedingly good. John Deane, who became Editor of *The Times* at the age of 23 in 1841, held the job until 1877.

Saatchi's big booking

agency will be trying to combat competition from cheap books and information

ADVERTISING

through new media. Whether the elitist peer can rescue the ailing Victorian social invention from terminal decline remains to be seen, but the initiative should at the very least earn him life membership of his own local library.

OGILVY and Mather is un-

stowed, he watched the ads and not the road."

There suddenly seems to be a glut of TV programmes about advertising in the pipeline. Satellite channel UK Living is resurrecting *Monday's Newcomers*, a series that ran for 20 years on ITV every Monday morning in which the new commercials of the week were played out in a combined format. The revamped version, called *Showcase*, will be screened monthly from September 3.

Some are wittily linked to their environment. A roadside poster, for example, features the Ogden Nash line: "Beneath this slab John Brown is

stowed, he watched the ads and not the road."

There suddenly seems to be a glut of TV programmes about advertising in the pipeline. Satellite channel UK Living is resurrecting *Monday's Newcomers*, a series that ran for 20 years on ITV every Monday morning in which the new commercials of the week were played out in a combined format. The revamped version, called *Showcase*, will be screened monthly from September 3.

BELINDA ARCHER

ALPHABETICAL GUIDE TO DEGREE VACANCIES: SCIENCES

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE AND HEALTH

Brunel Uni Col, B970
Coventry, B88H
Greenwich, B909
Nottingham Trent, N610
Ripon & York St John, B970
South Bank, BNK5, BNK9, BNKX, BNK6
SWIN, B200

OCEANOGRAPHY

Barnor, B46, B71
Plymouth, P100

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

SWIN, B200

ORTHOTICS/ ORTHOPTICS/ OPTOMETRY

Anglia, B500
Glasgow Caledonian, B510
Liverpool John Moores, F380
Salford, B984
Strathclyde, B510

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

British Col of Naturopathy & Osteopathy, B110

PAPER SCIENCE

UMIST, J560, J565, J5HP, J5N1, J5R1, J2K2, J5N1

PARASITOLOGY

Glasgow, C340

PHARMACOLOGY

Aberdeen, B200
Cardiff, B200
Central Lancashire, B812, Y400
Dundee, B200, B821
East London, B200, B201
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 1996

Jardine Fleming expected to face six-figure Imro fine

By Robert Miller

JARDINE FLEMING, the oldest established investment bank in Hong Kong and in which Robert Fleming, the private merchant bank, has a 50 per cent stake, is tomorrow expected to be fined substantially more than £100,000 for breaching a series of City rules.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the watchdog for fund managers, has been investigating Jardine Fleming

Asset Management, which is based in Hong Kong but regulated from London, since the end of last year. The Imro investigation is understood to relate to a breakdown of internal controls at Jardine Fleming in regard to dealing activities that took place in the Crown colony. The group is the largest fund manager in Asia and looks after \$22 billion on behalf of clients.

The forthcoming disciplinary action, which has to be ratified at Imro's special weekly meeting, is a

blow to the pride of both Robert Fleming and Jardine Fleming. Both groups are viewed as highly reputable and conscientious money managers and Fleming in the UK is a leading investment trust house. The Imro fine is one of the largest handed down since self-regulation was introduced in 1988. However it falls well short of the £750,000 fine imposed on Invesco for 55 offences relating to the Maxwell affair.

After the Imro investigation was launched, Jardine Fleming, which is

headed by Henry Strutt, a former Robert Fleming executive, instigated wide-sweeping management changes and strengthened internal controls and systems. In April, Mark White, formerly investment director of Save & Prosper, part of the Robert Fleming group, was appointed chief operating officer of Jardine Fleming.

In March, the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong, which has been kept fully informed of Imro's investigation,

signed a joint declaration with the UK watchdog. The agreement fosters closer ties between the two regulators and has led to sharing reports on inspection visits, exchanging general information and assisting in the conduct of on-site inspections. Initially, some 63 companies in the UK and Hong Kong were affected, but this number has increased since the declaration was signed.

In a separate and unrelated event, four traders left the Hong Kong

offices of Jardine Fleming this year over breaches of internal account rules. It is understood that the four, who worked in the broking division, had external trading accounts, in contravention of house rules, although it is believed that these were not used for personal gain. Robert Fleming, which said in an earlier statement that Jardine Fleming itself alerted Imro to the possible rule breaches last year, last night declined to comment on the impending announcement by the watchdog.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3905.7	(-1.8)
Yield	4.01%	
FT-SE All share	1260.18	(-0.57)
Nikkei	22810.27	(+28.53)
New York		
Dow Jones	5700.55	(+6.89)*
S&P Composite	655.12	(+1.24)*

GIR RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 7/8%	(9 3/4%)
Yield	5.58%	(8.94%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Libor 3m	5 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Libor 6m	5 1/4%	(9 1/4%)

STERLING		
New York	1.5833*	(1.5865)
London		
DM	1.5837	(1.5842)
FF	2.2367	(2.3118)
FF	1.1349	(1.1350)
Yen	167.82	(168.60)
Yen	167.82	(168.60)
Yen	84.8	(85.0)

MONTHLY USA CDS		
London		
DM	1.4798*	(1.4790)
FF	2.0025*	(2.0500)
FF	1.1349	(1.1350)
Yen	167.82	(168.60)
Yen	84.8	(85.0)

BREIT 15-day (Nov)		
London		
DM	1.4798*	(1.4790)
FF	2.0025*	(2.0500)
FF	1.1349	(1.1350)
Yen	167.82	(168.60)
Yen	84.8	(85.0)

LONDON CLOSING		
DM	1.4798*	(1.4790)
FF	2.0025*	(2.0500)
FF	1.1349	(1.1350)
Yen	167.82	(168.60)
Yen	84.8	(85.0)

* denotes midday trading price

Pru secures £1.75bn sale of M&G

By Marianne Curphey

THE PRUDENTIAL Corporation, the biggest life insurer in the UK, will have an extra £1.75 billion with which to fund acquisitions after selling its Mercantile & General reinsurance business to Swiss Re.

Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, said that no acquisitions were imminent following the deal but he reiterated his desire to buy a mutual life insurer or a building society. The proceeds from the sale will appear in either the final results for 1996 in March next year, or in the 1997 interim.

Swiss Re, which sold M&G Re to Prudential nearly 30 years ago, was one of a small number of buyers that approached Prudential in June after it announced plans to float M&G later this year.

A partial flotation had been planned because Prudential was unsure how the shares

would be received by the market. However, the deal with Swiss Re was concluded over the weekend and earned Prudential a better than expected price for the entire company of £1.704 billion in cash plus a £50 million special dividend. The dividend will show up in the results as a cash receipt, not a profit.

John Coomber, head of Swiss Re's life and health divisions, said that there would be job losses at both M&G Re and Swiss Re, but declined to give a figure.

The other bidders interested in M&G Re are believed to have included Employers Re, the reinsurer based in the United States and owned by General Electric.

Reinsurance is a huge financial services industry in which companies underwrite insurance sold by others for a portion of the premium paid. Swiss Re's fellow reinsurers

have grown larger after a wave of consolidation in the sector. Swiss Re had been in the running to buy American Re, the US property and casualty reinsurer that was bought by Munich Re this month for \$3.3 billion. General Re has announced that it is acquiring National Re, its rival in the US.

Mr Davis said that he believed Prudential had secured a higher than expected price for M&G because as one of the top specialist life and health insurers worldwide, it was in a less volatile area of the global reinsurance industry than a general reinsurer. The sale follows a review of Prudential's strategy.

Prudential had been pursuing the possible flotation in parallel, he said. "It was always a serious intention of ours to float the M&G, unless one of the trade buyers particularly wanted to buy it."

He declined to comment on whether Prudential was in talks with any building societies or life insurers. The group intended to concentrate on developing its retail financial services business in the UK, United States and Asia, he added.

The market believes that the Woolwich or the Alliance & Leicester building societies, both of which plan to convert to banks, are possible targets.

M&G is a global life and health reinsurer, with net assets of £1.1 billion at the end of 1995. The deal, which is subject to regulatory approval and expected to be finalised by the end of the year, will increase Swiss Re's life and health reinsurance business by 10 per cent, to 27 per cent of total business, with property and casualty making up the balance.

Last week rumours of a sale pushed Prudential's shares up 30p, from 420p to 440p, before closing at 437p on Friday. After rising briefly yesterday they closed again at 437p. Analysts said that the price Prudential had secured was well in excess of what it could have achieved on the stock market.

Swiss Re's purchase was also considered a good deal and Swiss Re's shares advanced SwFr31 (£16.60) to SwFr130.



Allan Leighton is promoted to chief executive in place of the populist Archie Norman

Norman changes position at Asda

By Sarah Cunningham

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive of Asda, is to become chairman of the supermarket group and Allan Leighton, his current deputy, will take on the chief executive's role.

The announcement that he is taking on the less demanding job has fuelled speculation that Mr Norman is planning a move into politics.

Mr Leighton, 43, will take over as chief executive on September 11, immediately after the company's annual meeting. Patrick Gillingham, 63, is to retire as chairman. Mr Norman, 42, will be full-time chairman designate until December after which he is likely to work part-time.

Mr Leighton said "He [Mr Norman] plays his cards very close. But this gives him time to take on different things."

The move had been planned for some time, he said. He added that the remuneration committee has not yet met to consider changes in pay or share option entitlements in the light of the management changes. The board now intends to appoint a second deputy chairman.

Mr Norman, an ardent Conservative supporter, is known to harbour political ambitions, but it is thought he is unlikely to stand for Parliament at the next general election and is more likely to use his newfound spare time to build up a power base. It is also thought possible that he could move across to head another large company.

His success in rebuilding Asda has made Mr Norman rich. He made £3.69 million, most of it from the exercising of share options, last year. He has also built up a populist image by helping to bring down the Net Book Agreement and attacking the resale price maintenance rules which fix prices for over-the-counter medicines.

Pranington, page 23

Quinn lands top post at Nomura

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

BRIAN QUINN, 59, who recently retired as the Bank of England's director of supervision, is to become chairman of Nomura Bank International, the Japanese securities house's commercial and institutional banking subsidiary in the UK.

Although strictly non-executive, Mr Quinn will be expected by Nomura to spend two or three days a week working for the bank. Nomura refused to say how much Mr Quinn would be paid, but the post is likely to be the most lucrative of the directorships he has taken on since emerging from "gardening leave".

As a long-time supervisor, Mr Quinn faced criticism after the collapse of BCCI and Barings. But the gritty Scot was not blamed personally and remained a popular figure in banking circles. He also stood in as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England for six months after the resignation of Rupert

Pennant-Rea in March last year.

Nomura believes that his worldwide contacts, especially in bank regulation, will be of value. The company said: "We look forward to working with Brian over the next decade."

Mr Quinn is due to start his new job next week, but he will initially share the Nomura chair with Andreas Prindl, 56, who founded the company and has been chairman since 1989.

Nomura is the second foreign bank Mr Quinn has joined. Along with Lord Dahrendorf, the Anglo-German scholar, he has become a non-executive director of the UK arm of Bankgesellschaft Berlin.

A more sentimental attachment for the Glaswegian central banker was a seat on the board of Celtic plc, the AIM-traded parent company for Glasgow Celtic Football Club. Mr Quinn has been a lifelong fan.



Just my cup of tea. George Simpson's contract starts on September 9 and runs for three years

Simpson gets £9m GEC package

By Sarah Cunningham

GEORGE SIMPSON stands to get around £9 million over the next five years as managing director of GEC. He will receive a one-off payment of £500,000 and an annual salary of £600,000 plus bonuses and a generous pension package when he takes over from Lord Weinstock in a fortnight's time.

The one-off payment is to compensate for Mr Simpson's loss of long-term incentive arrangements at Lucas, the automotive parts group, where he has been chief executive since 1994 and where

he earned around £540,000. His annual bonus at GEC will depend upon "certain reasonable performance criteria to be agreed," his contract states. Half the bonus will be paid in GEC shares and the aim is that he will end up with the equivalent to having share options of four times his basic salary.

The contract starts on September 9 and runs for three years, after which it will roll over, unless ended with one year's notice, until Mr Simpson's retirement at 60.

GEC will accumulate a fund to cover his pension, containing at least £620,000

for every year of service up to five years, making a maximum of £3.1 million.

Under the long-term incentive scheme, Mr Simpson, who made his reputation as head of Rover when it was still part of British Aerospace, will receive a "phantom share option," also based on four times his basic salary, from which he can make a maximum of £1 million before tax. He will be entitled to half after four years and the other half after five years.

GEC's shares will have to rise 10 per cent more than the FT-SE 100 index in any six months before the date of exercise for him to receive the award.

John Stuart Mill.

Author of *The Principles of Political Economy*, 1848.

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Fixed Example: A £50,000 interest only mortgage (includes £295 lender's arrangement fee) on a property valued at £75,000, completing on September 27 1996 repaid over 25 years. 1 gross monthly payment of £290.25, 298 gross monthly payments of £251.06 and a final gross payment of £20,546.06 at 5.99% APR. Total amount payable £21,35,657.19 calculated to include an acceptance fee of £295.00, £100 legal fee, £150 valuation fee and £250 advice fee. The APR is based on an interest rate of 6.21% per annum. Interest rates may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. APR may vary. Lowest fixed 5.99%. Total amount payable £21,35,657.19 calculated to include an acceptance fee of £295.00, £100 legal fee, £150 valuation fee and £250 advice fee. The APR is based on an interest rate of 6.21% per annum. Interest rates may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. APR may vary. Lowest fixed 5.99%. 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Management in £84m buyout of BPMS



Mason: pleased with the terms

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AMEC, the engineering and construction group, yesterday announced it is to spin off its stake in BPMS, the facilities management company, in an £84.6 million management buyout.

AMEC and Pell Frischmann, its Swiss-owned partner, will both sell their 50 per cent shareholdings in BPMS to a newly formed company financed with funds arranged by CVC Capital Partners.

The present executive board of directors is expected to continue running BPMS, supported by new appointments by CVC. Peter Mason,

AMEC's group chief executive, said: "BPMS has been an excellent investment, but I am pleased with the terms reached in the disposal of our 50 per cent interest."

BPMS's decision to go it alone is seen as a move to position itself favourably in one of the UK's fastest-growing sectors already overpopulated by newcomers.

Analysts said BPMS will want to compete for more private sector contracts on top of its existing contracts with government departments. Simon Brown, facilities management analyst at UBS Securities, said: "They can manage anything from IBM to the local corner shop."

The action is where companies upsize or downsize. It's a tough game to play. The Government, especially the NHS, is screwing down the prices it is willing to pay.

AMEC will net a total of up to £38.3 million from the sale of its BPMS stake made up of a £7.5 million pre-sale dividend, £27.5 million in cash, £1.9 million of deferred consideration and a potential further payment of £1.4 million. It said the sale would resolve strategic conflicts with other AMEC businesses and would enable the group to develop its facilities management activities in wholly owned businesses.

In the year to September 30, 1995,

BPMS reported turnover of £364.6 million and profit before tax of £15.5 million. AMEC's trading in the year to date, has been broadly in line with the board's expectations and it expects to announce its latest interim results on September 5.

In another development in the facilities management sector, the Ministry of Defence awarded its first contract to have administrative services on one of its warships managed by an outside company. Amey Facilities Management will receive £21 million to manage cleaning, mail, catering, accommodation and transport services on HMS Nelson in Portsmouth over the next five years.

Daewoo in drive for zero-hours contracts

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DAEWOO, the Korean car manufacturer, is to become the first motor company in Britain to introduce controversial zero-hours contracts for some of its UK employees — employment deals which guarantee no hours, or pay.

The move marks a significant extension into heavy industry of the employment practice of unspecified-hour contracts that has previously been concentrated in the high streets. The Labour party is pledged to outlaw zero-hours contracts, under which employees are taken on, but remain at home until they are called in to work, usually with little or no notice.

Daewoo's move reflects the company's decision, after its move into the UK two years ago, to adopt a different strategy on the marketing and selling of its cars in Britain — and specifically the establishment of its own chain of car dealerships. The company employs its current staff of around 1,000 on a salaried basis, with no commission, to create a different and less aggressive climate in which its cars are sold. The company is already enjoying much lower levels of labour turnover than are common in the industry.

The new zero-hour staff, employed as part of the plan to double the UK labour force by the end of next year and paid only when they are working, will help to meet Daewoo's marketing commitment to service customers' cars free for three years. As part of this plan, Daewoo will use zero-hours staff to collect vehicles from customers, deliver re-

placement courtesy cars and then return the original vehicles.

Peter Ellis, Daewoo Cars human resources director, who signals the move in an interview in *Personnel Today*, the specialist magazine, says the policy will require a great deal of support at each outlet.

He says: "We do not want people simply standing around, so we are looking to employ mature people who are available for work but not necessarily anticipating work. We are looking at a lot of zero-hours contracts."

Staff will be listed at each dealership. The company envisages paying them pro rata in line with full-time staff. Daewoo has already piloted part-time working — unusual in the motor industry — at showrooms in Crawley, Rochdale and Edinburgh, and has as a long-term vision of only about a third of its staff being full-time, supplemented by part-timers covering peaks in demand.

Opponents of zero-hours contracts see them as the ultimate in the labour market flexibility favoured by the Government and argue that they exploit people often already in a vulnerable employment position.

Last year, Burger King, the fast-food company, moved away from zero-hours contracts, pioneered in Britain by retail firms such as Burton, after facing public criticism for asking staff to clock off during slack periods. The company paid considerable compensation to the staff involved.



Christine Dann, the Stock Exchange's director of operations, overseeing the launch of Sequence, the new £81 million computerised trading system. Market report, page 24

PIA fines firms for pensions tardiness

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE City watchdog charged with monitoring the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling review has fined and reprimanded 15 firms of independent financial advisers for dragging their heels.

The Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms selling direct to the public, said yesterday that the 1500 fines against 14 members were for failing to provide the quarterly returns on how they are progressing the pensions review, in spite of repeated reminders. Another London firm, Cradock Financial Services, was fined £2,500 and reprimanded because it has previously been disciplined for the same offence.

The latest series of fines by the PIA, headed by Colette Rowe, is a warning to independent advisers, and a number of life offices, which have consistently ignored timetables or supplied inadequate information. This autumn the PIA is expected to step up the pressure by levying much larger fines on member firms that continue to fail to provide the necessary returns.

There has been mounting concern among City watchdogs in general that the personal pension mis-selling review, which could leave the life sector with a compensation and costs bill of up to £4 billion, is taking too long.

People who were wrongly advised to leave usually generous occupational schemes in favour of a private plan, or not to join in the first place, have still to be restored to the position and scheme they were in to start with. In part, this is due to the various occupational schemes not supplying full reinstatement costs to the insurer, who must pay the compensation. But the greatest reason for the delay says one senior PIA source "is the lack of commitment shown by some companies to complete the review".

Court win gives boost to BAT

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company, began a bounce-back yesterday after victory at the weekend in a vital anti-smoking case in the US. BAT shares rose 10.5p to close at 436.5p after a court in Indiana threw out a damages claim. The ruling spurred a rally in US tobacco stocks on Monday, reversing some of the damage suffered after defeat for the tobacco companies in another damages action, the Carter case, two weeks ago.

BAT said the verdict was proof that the tide had not turned against the tobacco companies and claimed it provided further evidence that its appeal against the Carter case, which awarded damages of \$750,000 to a former smoker and his wife, would also succeed.

BAT, meanwhile, responded critically to a move by President Clinton to allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco as a drug.

The company said that it would take legal action to fight the move and related plans to impose tough new advertising restrictions on the industry.

Speculation in the US that Congress was preparing legislation offering tobacco companies legal immunity in return for a multibillion-dollar payout was also being played down by the markets yesterday.

The tobacco companies said that they were unaware of the idea.

Bruntcliffe chief given reprieve by court ruling

BY JASON NISSE

A SHAREHOLDER revolt to oust Mike Wallis, the chief executive of Bruntcliffe Aggregates, has been stalled by a High Court ruling.

The company has disenfranchised its second-largest shareholder, Jersey-registered Mineral & General Investments, so it may not vote or receive dividends for its 9.3 per cent stake. M&G has been disenfranchised since December 1994, when Bruntcliffe said it was not satisfied with M&G's answer to a notice under section 212 of the Companies Act demanding to know who was the beneficial owner of its shares. M&G said its owner was Soudus, a Swiss company.

Bruntcliffe believes that M&G is controlled by two of its former directors, Anthony Hanson and Paul Kaye, who own 13.7 per cent of the group's shares in their own right. They deny this, but wish to join forces with M&G to oust Mr Wallis.

Soudus shares are held in bearer form, so that the holder of the shares is the owner.

On Friday in the High Court, Master Dyson refused to reinstate M&G's shareholder rights and has sent the whole matter for trial. It is likely to be the first test of the ability of companies' draconian powers to disenfranchise shareholders.

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Avonmore poised for expansion

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

ARMED with a strong balance sheet and good earnings growth, Avonmore, the Irish food group, is planning further expansion in Europe and the US.

Yesterday the company reported a solid 11.1 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, to Ir£13.10 million, in the first six months of 1996. Turnover was up 6.6 per cent and earnings per share increased 11.1 per cent, to Ir£0.12p. The Ir£0.90p interim dividend, payable on October 9, was up 8.6 per cent.

Brendan Graham, group secretary, said the results showed the company was "strongly positioned to grow the business through acquisitive and organic growth".

Banks look into national cash machine network

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE UK's clearing banks are considering linking up their ATM systems to produce a nationwide network of more than 20,000 cash dispensers.

At present, the banks' disperse cash through three separate networks. The Mint network has about 6,000 ATMs that service Midland, Natwest, TSB, Clydesdale and Northern Bank customers.

Barclays, Lloyds, Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland together have a network of about 6,800 machines, while building society customers are serviced via a network of 7,150 dispensers. The total number of ATMs has risen more than 15 per

cent over the past five years as the banks have seen the competitive advantages of locating cash dispensers in supermarkets, railway stations and garage forecourts.

The value of transactions through ATMs has also mushroomed, from £43 billion in 1990 to £71 billion last year. Banks acknowledge that linking the three networks would be a big step forward for customer service.

However, they point out that linking up the networks would mean some expenditure on technology and an agreement would have to be reached about the price of using another bank's ATM.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's wins appeal against US court

LLOYD'S of London was reported to have won its appeal against an American court ruling blocking completion of the £3.2 billion reconstruction package, as it emerged that more than 82 per cent of 34,000 names worldwide had accepted the settlement offer. Names have until noon today to fax or hand-deliver their settlement acceptance forms, or face being excluded from the settlement. David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said that he was "encouraged" by the steady flow of acceptances, which had reached 75 per cent by midday on Saturday. Last weekend's ruling in Virginia had threatened to exclude all 2,700 US names — and about \$280 million — from the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan.

Judge Robert Payne had last week granted a request for a temporary injunction delaying R&R in America, and ordered Lloyd's to provide US names with more information. Lloyd's successfully argued that the case belonged in the UK courts. In any event Lloyd's has remained confident that R&R will proceed without the American names, but questions remain over precisely how the US contribution will be funded. There is also the threat of a potential backlash against the US insurance market.

Delay for BA plan

THE proposed BA-American Airlines link-up faced a new hiccup yesterday when US transport department officials postponed "open skies" talks with British officials, saying the "UK proposal... fell so far short of providing the essential elements of an open skies agreement [that] it did not provide the basis for discussion." Separately, Virgin Express, the cut-price European carrier, has postponed plans for a new Brussels-Geneva service. Virgin said Swiss authorities had objected to plans to undercut Swissair and Sabena by up to 50 per cent.

Newspapers for sale

UNITED NEWS & Media is putting 47 of its regional titles on the auction block as part of a new strategy to move out of the South of England and to expand its interest in the North. The *South Wales Argus* will be among the titles to go, as the company divests all its newspaper holdings in the South East and in Wales. It said that it plans to diversify and expand in the North of England, where it already owns the *Yorkshire Post* and the *Sheffield Star*, among others. Shares in United News & Media rose 3p, to 705p, yesterday.

New car sales lift dealer

SANDERSON BRAMALL, the motor dealer, returned record results for the six months to June 30, selling 10,000 new cars against 8,000 last time. But it said its net margin, at 1.7 per cent, was still unacceptably low. The first half-year contribution from Thrifty Car Rental helped to lift group sales from £245 million to £319 million, taking pre-tax profits from £4.26 million to £6.13 million. Earnings were 12.2p (8.7p) per share, as the interim dividend rose from 1.33p to 1.6p. It will be paid on November 1.

Regent bid succeeds

REGENT INNS, the pub chain, has succeeded in its first acquisition bid since its failed £6.7 million attempt for Unicorn Inns last year. It has agreed to buy Crossgate Leisure for £6.28 million, bringing on board 18 cafes and sports bars and taking the group outside the M25 ring. The acquisition adds the seven Muswells' cafe bars and 11 snooker bars to its portfolio. They are expected to contribute annualised pre-tax profits of £823,000 on sales of £10.3 million. Its shares settled down 18½p to 217½p yesterday.

New Kepit suitor

OLD MUTUAL, the South African asset management group, has thrown its hat in the ring in the battle to take control of Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit). Its plans for the future management of the troubled trust include a capital reduction scheme and a cash buyout for investors who want to sell out of the trust. It is now the sixth company to put forward proposals to restructure the trust. These are being considered by Merrill Lynch, which is advising Kepit's board.

Unit trust sales dip

NET unit trust sales in July fell £2 million to £419 million and the value of funds under management dipped to £123 billion, reflecting a 4 per cent fall in the Standard and Poor's (S&P) World Index. Corporate bond personal equity plan sales were £76 million, unchanged, while overall net sales of £380 million were £2 million up on June, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investments Funds. The UK was the most popular market, accounting for 85 per cent of net sales. Total net unit trust investment fell to £616 million (£722 million in June).

CRT cedes control

SHAREHOLDERS in CRT Group, the training and recruitment company, yesterday approved a £109 million deal which sees control pass to Education Technology, an American company, whose backers include Michael Milken, the former junk bond dealer. Education Technology will hold a stake of 50.1 per cent and the deal provides CRT with £100 million for organic growth and future investments. CRT non-executive directors include Larry Ellison, founder and chief executive officer of Oracle, the American software company.

TV Corporation ahead

THE Television Corporation, created last November by the merger of Molinair with Sunset + Vine, made a pre-tax profit of £1.05 million in the six months to June 30, up from £284,000. Earnings per share were 4p (3.5p) and there is a 1p dividend, payable on 7 October. Richard Dunn, the group's chairman, said it was well placed to take advantage of the opportunities which were presenting themselves in the television sector. The company has recently won contracts with BSkyB, Carlton Select and Channel 5.

Zettters returns to bingo for change in fortune

BY FRASER NELSON



Instants, whose new series was launched by Suzanne Dando, have affected Zettters profits

THE continuing success of the National Lottery has prompted Zettters, the third largest football pools operator, to return to bingo in a £6.5 million deal.

The retreat comes eight years after it pulled out of the business, selling its 30-strong bingo chain to Bass for £23 million.

It is now buying three bingo halls from Jasmin for a total of £6.5 million, to be paid in cash and paper, leaving Jasmin with 13 outlets.

Zettters reinforced its return to its bingo roots by naming Leslie Hurst, Jasmin's owner, as its new chief executive. He will succeed James Clarke

who retires next April. The three bingo halls, all converted cinemas, are expected to generate annualised operating profits of £960,000, on sales of £4.3 million. They were sold to Jasmin when Rank bought Mecca, the national bingo chain, in 1991. Robert Upsell, non-executive chairman of Jasmin, is also joining Zettters as a non-executive director.

In the year to March 31, Zettters saw its pre-tax profits fall from £1.26 million to £1.02 million, on sales which dropped 15 per cent to £19.6 million. Paul Zetter, chairman, blamed the National Lottery and its special tax

status which had left other gaming companies unable to compete.

Earnings fell from 12.8p to 10.1p per share, but a final dividend of 5p maintains the total at 10p. It will be paid on October 4.

When the National Lottery was launched in November 1994, its profits were taxed at 12 per cent, while pools and bookmakers paid a national betting duty of 37½ per cent. After pressure from other gambling companies, the Government reduced this duty to 27½ per cent in November, but Mr Zetter said this had been "too little and too late to be of any real help".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.18	15.08
Belgium Fr	50.24	46.04
Canada \$	2.942	2.982
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.822
Denmark Kr	6.45	6.85
Finland Mk	7.54	6.98
France Fr	6.26	7.61
Germany Dr	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	325	358
Hong Kong \$	12.48	11.89
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.28	4.83
Italy Lit	2462	2307
Japan Yen	182.00	168.00
Malta	0.595	0.540
Netherlands Gld	2.728	2.489
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.81	9.71
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	1.60	1.50
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	10.50	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	137200	129500
USA \$	1.657	1.527

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Caradon selling

□ Grade defends Channel 4 status quo □ Lenders pay price of dodging risk □ Asda chief makes room for politics

Symbol of resistance broadcasting

□ THERE is something Churchillian about Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive. It might be his love for large cigars or his ability to adopt a forceful pose. Or it may be his language when defending the channel against the pagan hordes who would wish to take a giant step to subsidise ITV companies or worse, privatise the channel itself.

"I will fight with every breath of my body to avoid the privatisation of Channel 4," he told an audience at the Edinburgh television festival on Monday. Faced with this sort of resistance, the Government might as well give up now. But even if Mr Grade, looking at the possibilities for enrichment that a privatisation would present, should change his mind, the risk/reward ratio of privatising Channel 4 hardly makes it worthwhile.

The first issue is how much is the channel worth. More than £1.5 billion, says Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank. That is three times the channel's 1995 advertising revenue of £448 million, and implies sustainable pre-tax profits of £100 million. Anthony Fry, of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, argues that to maintain the channel's programming standards, it would have to spend a good £400 million on programmes, so cutting the value to less than £1 billion.

Mr Fry, who cut his teeth privatising the electricity industry, points out that every pound saved on programming could add £15 to the value of the channel on the open market. However strictly the Channel 4 remit is written within the articles of association, the temptation to turn Channel 4 into ITV 2 once it is privatised would be hard to resist. Since Mr Grade took control and Channel 4 started selling its own advertising airtime, there has been a feeling among the chattering classes that the channel is becoming overly commercial.

This process would be accelerated by any sell-off. And then there is the issue of takeover protection. Takeover bids are enough of a contentious issue within TV without adding in the messy factor of protecting a channel specifically set up to deliver an alternative. What would people say if Carlton, Granada or even Bertelsmann wanted to snap it up?

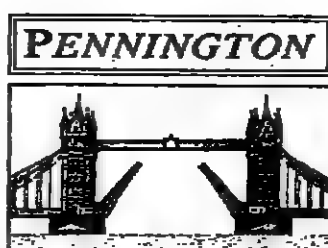
Finally there is the question of who owns Channel 4. Is it the Government? Is it ITV? Or is it like the TSB and suddenly some-

one would find that it owns itself so it would end up with the money. Would it have to pay off the ITV companies to compensate them for losing their annual take-off. The company is one created by statute so the issue is far from clear.

What is clear is that privatising Channel 4 is a political minefield in which the Government will be accused of fiddling with a successful business which happens to deliver what it is supposed to. Given the current climate at Westminster, Michael Grade does not look like he will have to fight them on the beaches just yet.

Indemnity dilemma

□ MORTGAGE indemnity insurance has caused untold misery for insurers and homebuyers alike. Insurers have paid out billions of pounds to building societies and banks for the falling value of homes against which they lent, and then pursued the poor evicted borrowers for compensation. Unlike most insurance policies



where the policyholder pays an insurer to take the risk, mortgage indemnity policyholders have been forced to pay the premiums in order to get a loan when they have less than 25 per cent of the purchase price, and to pay for any loss suffered by the insurance company. From the consumers' standpoint, it is hard to fathom how the insurers managed to lose so much.

Now, as the housing market recovers and losses on residential property seem to be a thing of the past — at least for the next year or so — a mortgage lender has recognised that there is something wrong with the traditional mortgage indemnity policy. It may also have sensed a selling opportunity. NatWest has

launched a mortgage guarantee insurance that will not see so many homebuyers hounded after repossession to pay back any loss on their homes. Those who lose their jobs, their health and their spouses by death or separation will not have to stump up for any decline in the value of their homes when repossessioned. It may be not all that generous, but it is a move in the right direction and should cover the vast majority of the cases where an indemnity policy pays out.

As each set of house price statistics seems to bring 100,000 homebuyers out of negative equity, lenders are not yet quite brave enough to risk lending to first-time buyers without the safety net of indemnity insurance. But they do want a bigger share of the mortgage market. They also want to encourage today's first-time buyers to move on in a year or two and have found that mortgage indemnity insurance, which adds thousands of pounds to the purchase price — even second time around — can prevent buyers from moving on. This lender-created form of negative equity

will be reduced by rebates, but while lenders insist on someone else taking the risk it will never be a happy market.

Norman sidles to the checkout

□ NO ONE at Asda is encouraging the thought that Archie Norman will check out. Yet the boyish chief executive's ascent to the chair of the rejuvenated superstore group looks like a prelude to reducing his commitment there from next year.

The Asda story is a classic example of how to knock a basically sound business back into shape. Mr Norman has helped to make almost as much for shareholders as for himself in the process, but future profit growth may be more mundane.

At 42, he has therefore become the headhunter's dream: successful, still youthful, potentially available and extremely expensive. As a dedicated Conservative and natural communicator, Mr Norman himself shows a yen for politics. He already claims to have helped to end the Net Book

Agreement and tried the same on medicines. When the EU banned British beef, gimmicky Asda banned foreign beef.

Having cashed in options, Mr Norman can afford to take on politics as Michael Heseltine and Peter Walker did a generation ago. But he does not appear to see much point being an MP on the losing side next year. In other words, he is only interested in running a department.

Future Tory victors might have other ideas. Mr Norman is the sort of intolerable bright spark who terrorises lesser executives into clearing their desks, giving up their company cars and having hour-long meetings without chairs to cut out the chit-chat. Tory parliamentarians would surely insist on breaking him in for five years before giving him a sniff of office.

Go for growth

□ WILD horses cannot stop a chief executive from talking up his share price. William Landuyt, incumbent boss of Millennium Chemicals, shortly to be set adrift from Hanson, is undeterred by the sagging Hanson share price. Describing Millennium as a growth stock deserving a low yield, he has promised a share buyback by the year 2000. Golly. The shares are not trading on their own yet.

OFT examines software duo

Sage's £27m bid for Pegasus may be referred

By Keith Rodgers

THE proposed £27 million takeover of Pegasus, the accounting software supplier, by Sage Group, its larger rival, may be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after an investigation into their combined market share by the Office of Fair Trading.

Sage made a 42p-per-share conditional offer for Pegasus more than three weeks ago. Pegasus turned down the offer, arguing that it undervalued the

company's trading prospects and the benefits of a merger. Sage is now understood to be considering making a formal offer after sounding out institutional investors.

The OFT has approached Sage to obtain further details of the offer and is expected to examine the market positions of the two companies. Referral to the MMC will depend partly on the way it defines the market — although the overall accounting software sector is

quite fragmented, the companies have more than 30 per cent of the market and are believed to have a dominant position in sales of accounting software for personal computers.

Jonathan Hubbard-Ford, Pegasus's chief executive, said that Sage dominated the low end of the pc market, and estimated that the combined group's share of the more expensive modular accounting software market would be around 70 to 75 per cent.

Mr Hubbard-Ford said: "If you put the two markets together, you have an overwhelming proportion of sales between the two companies. We've had a number of dealers, users and third-party observers writing in or calling to communicate their fears as to what would happen if Sage and Pegasus merged."

Sage disputes the estimates and Paul Walker, chief executive, said Pegasus's figures did not differentiate between sales of licenses to new users and upgrades for existing customers, adding that there is "enormous choice" in the non-retail pc market. The company, which argues that the OFT inquiry is standard practice, said it has taken advice from economists and is "absolutely" confident about its case.

Sage has made no further public comment about a potential takeover since it revealed details of the conditional offer three weeks ago, beyond indicating that it would prefer to avoid a hostile bid. Analysts expect it to hold fire until Pegasus unveils its interim results tomorrow.

Pegasus shares had been trading at between 320p and 340p before the 42p-per-share approach was made. Sage is thought to have made as many as five informal approaches to Pegasus in recent years. It is understood that it last expressed an interest during an extraordinary boardroom battle at Pegasus in 1992, when Mr Hubbard-Ford was temporarily ousted, but withdrew when shareholder pressure resulted in his reinstatement.



John Bourke, left, Peter Fitzpatrick, finance director, and Roy Douglas, chief executive, right

Irish Permanent pleases market

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

IRISH PERMANENT, Ireland's largest mortgage lender, where John Bourke is chairman, continued this year's run of sparkling results from the republic's banks, with an increase of 16.8 per cent in interim pre-tax profits.

The £23.3 million pre-tax profit figure was more than £11 million ahead of market expectations. Earnings per share were £15.9p, compared with £13.8p for the first six months of 1995. The company declared an interim dividend of 14 pence, up 14.3 per cent on the same period last year, and payable on October 24, 1996.

In spite of intense competition in its core mortgage business, loans for new homes for the first half jumped to £1246 million, up from £1168 million for the first six months of 1995.

Irish Permanent has about 20 per cent of the Irish mortgage market. Last week it was the first Irish lending

institution to increase its variable mortgage interest rate — by 0.25 of a percentage point. Most other banks have followed suit with similar, or bigger, rate rises.

According to John Connolly, an analyst with Bloxham Stockbrokers, the most spectacular progress in the company's first-half trading was in the non-core businesses of car financing and life insurance.

Irish Permanent Finance saw a 68 per cent increase in its car financing portfolio to £164 million and the Irish Progressive life assurance group recorded earnings of £25.1 million, compared with £14.5 million for the same period last year. Mr Connolly said: "Both sectors look set to continue making a significant contribution to pre-tax growth for the rest of the year."

The company's entry to both markets coincides with one of the most sustained periods of rapid growth ever experienced by the Irish economy.

Deadline at Lloyds Chemists

By Paul Durman

THE COMPANY that buys Lloyds Chemists could face substantial difficulties meeting the bid requirements imposed by the Department of Trade and Industry, it was claimed yesterday.

UniChem and Gehe, the two companies bidding for Lloyds, have been asked to give undertakings that they will sell several of Lloyds's pharmaceutical wholesaling depots.

Richard Piggott, finance director of Philip Harris, a pharmaceutical distributor that has made indicative offers for some of the depots, said: "The MMC have got themselves into a hell of a mess." Mr Piggott stressed that these offers are based on only sketchy financial information. "The successful bidder has only three months to get rid of these depots. They have got to get rid of them, or else the deal falls."

Service America deal for Compass

By Keith Rodgers

COMPASS, the catering group, continued its aggressive acquisition spree yesterday when it agreed a £77 million takeover of Service America's food operations.

The loss-making US business, which has been acquired debt free, employs 13,000 people and holds 7,000 dining and vending accounts.

Compass, which will meet the bulk of the purchase price through the issue of 10.2 million shares at 57p each, said it will turn the operation around within months by reducing overheads and extending its own higher-discount purchasing agreements to the new business.

The company expects to incur exceptional reorganisation costs of £6.5 million, which will be provided for in the current-year accounts.

The deal is the latest in a string of acquisitions which have seen Compass expand its operations across Europe and

the US. Two years ago it bought Canteen, the American contract caterer, and it recently agreed terms to acquire the outstanding shares Eures of France. The company, which sold its healthcare arm to a management buyout team last December, indicated earlier this year that it will concentrate its takeover activity on bolt-on acquisitions in the catering field.

Compass confirmed that there will be some staff cuts after the acquisition from the merger of backroom functions.

Ron Morley, Compass's secretary, claimed the company has the top slot in the US vending market and is number three in the overall catering arena.

Payment terms include a cash sum of £5.3 million and loan notes of £12.9 million. The share payment will be made in instalments over two years.

Prism in line for rail franchises

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Prism Rail, the first stock market traded rail operator in nearly 50 years, continued their precipitous climb yesterday as the market had its first chance to react to the latest business coup of the company, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market.

Prism has now been named as the preferred bidder for two more rail franchises — the South Wales and West region, with services running on 1,569 miles of track, and Cardiff Railway, with 86 miles. The deals will roughly double the size of Prism's business, which currently consists of running the commuter line service from London to Tilbury and Southend.

Shares in Prism ended the day 35p higher at 300p. This means they have tripled in value since Prism joined the Alternative Investment Market at the end of May. The company, founded by senior executives from the bus industry, is now worth nearly £35 million.

Prism will have to raise about £12 million to pay for the two new franchises. Yesterday Prism said that it expects to price the necessary rights issue at 240p a share.

After completing final checks on Prism's offer, the Office of Rail Passenger Franchising expects to confirm the award of the franchises in mid-September. Prism saw off rival bids from a management buyout team, from Great Western Railway and from Mersey County Travel, a bus company.

The South Wales & West network extends from Cardiff and Bristol to Manchester, Birmingham, Portsmouth and the West of England. The region generates passenger revenues of about £40 million a year. It employs nearly 1,400 people.

Cardiff Railways runs services to Rhymney and Merthyr Tydfil in the Welsh valleys. Annual passenger revenue is about £6 million, and the business employs 315 staff.

Prism has already attracted controversy. When its shares doubled on their first day trading, critics claimed the London, Tilbury & Southend service had been sold on the cheap. The company has also had a run-in with the rail union RMT after it proposed replacing ticket inspectors with private security guards.

Caradon selling 15 businesses for £200m

By Oliver August

CARADON, the building and materials supplier, is selling most of its European engineering and distribution businesses in a deal worth around £200 million.

Outline terms were agreed with a leading UK venture capitalist firm, the group said yesterday. The sale price approximates to the book value of the 15 businesses concerned, including attributable goodwill of £80 million.

In 1995, the businesses had sales of £264 million and ongoing profits of £21 million after adjustment for central items, and a normal pension charge of £4 million.

Peter Jansen, chief executive, said: "These are good businesses with good prospects, but are not a mainstream activity for us. Disposing of them would bring added focus and opportunities to our building products activities in Europe, and is in keeping with our stated strategy."

The businesses to be sold include Pillar-Wedge, the steel galvanisers; MBS, distributors of fasteners and bearings; John Lee, sacks and bag merchants; and Atwell, the aircraft engineering products firm. According to City analysts, the deal should lead to a

turnaround in fortunes after taxable earnings last year slumped to £114 million, from £201 million in 1994. The group has launched a restructuring programme in which 1,600 jobs have been lost from a workforce of 26,000.

Caradon has had to combat the effects of the sharply declining domestic market, while last week's German interest rate cut should boost the German market. In March, Mr Jansen gave warning that the group was expecting difficult trading in the first half of the year although he said there was "some light at the end of the tunnel".



Jansen: disposals "in keeping with group's stated strategy"

Speciality takes control

By Keith Rodgers

ONE of London's most upmarket fashion centres could soon find itself invaded by hordes of club-goers after Speciality Shops won a contract to manage the site.

St Christopher's Place, tucked behind Selfridges off London's Oxford Street, houses 52 shops and restaurants including Whistles, Jigsaw and Nicole Farhi. Friends Provident, the insurance company and site owner, yesterday announced that the day-to-day management of the estate had been passed to Speciality Shops, which already owns or oversees several prime sites in Edinburgh, Leeds, Bishops Cleeve, and

Maidstone, Nottingham and London's Victoria.

Speciality has a reputation for its hands-on approach to site management, concentrating on trying to achieve the right mix of outlets for a centre and, where necessary, changing it. After taking over the Waverley site in the middle of Edinburgh, it found the low-ticket outlets were enjoying the best trading and over 18 months took other parts of the site downmarket.

Stephen Jaffe, managing director of Speciality Shops, said the company was assessing the mix at St Christopher's Place, and had received a lot of inquiries from small designer

labels selling to "middle and upmarket clubland". Three stores have already opened on the site, and Speciality is calculating whether bringing in other operations as tenants move on could establish the site as a "weekend-wear" landmark.

However, Mr Jaffe stressed that the site assessment was only in its early stages. "There's a lot of face-to-face discussions — we're trying to find out who's trading well and who's under pressure, and what's missing to make the whole thing stronger."

St Christopher's caters for a office-workers, dedicated shoppers and tourists.

London shrugs off sharp falls on Wall Street

THE London stock market shrugged off the sharp falls of the past few days on Wall Street in an attempt to consolidate its position after last week's record-breaking run.

In the wake of a 28-point setback for the Dow Jones industrial average overnight, share prices in London were marked sharply lower. But the absence of any real weight of selling and evidence of a bear squeeze among blue chips soon saw the early losses wiped out, leaving prices at market time for much of the session.

After dipping below the 3,900 level first thing with a fall of almost 22 points, the FTSE 100 index regained its poise to finish 1.8 lower at 3,905.7. Turnover remained low, with 563 million shares traded.

In spite of the subdued trading conditions dealers reported "total confusion" as the stock exchange launched Sequence, its new £81 million computerised trading system. Sequence is meant to do away with the need for phones, allowing dealers to trade using a computer mouse.

Unfortunately, it seems much of the information was out of date by the time it reached the screens. As a result, brokers refused to trade, complaining that the slowness of the system left their positions exposed to rival firms. One leading broker said: "The screens were certainly more colourful, but didn't contain much in the way of information."

Railtrack contributed to the early fall in the index, finishing 14p lower at 240p after finally going ex the 13p dividend as five million shares were traded. The shares were floated in the spring at 190p. Prisms Rail fell 35p to 200p after it was selected as the preferred bidder for two Welsh railway companies. The purchase of the franchises will be financed by a rights issue to be pitched at about the 240p level.

Pearson put on 19p at 683p amid suggestions it might be planning a break-up. BTR ended 6p dearer at 252p in spite of talk of a possible cut in the dividend. Dealers argued the move may be needed to halve the decline of the group's cash flow and prepare for a revival in its fortunes.

Mounting speculation that the Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest institutional investor, may be looking for suitable acquisitions held



back the shares after news of the sale of Mercantile and General, a subsidiary. It is selling M&G to Swiss Re for £1.75 billion and City speculators say the proceeds may be used to acquire a building society, with the Woolwich heading the list ahead of its own stock market flotation. The Pru has made no secret of its desire to move in among



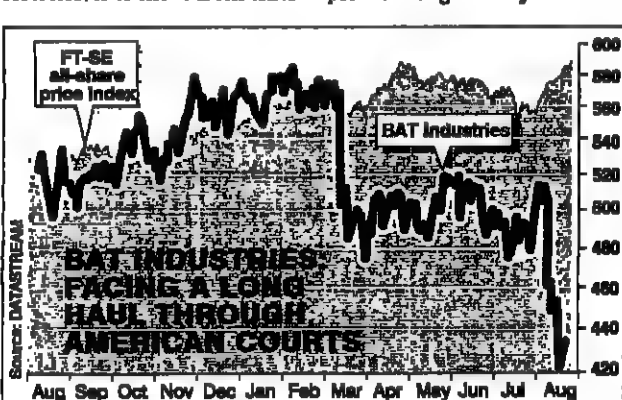
WH Smith was a weak market, tumbling 15p to 515p

executive to chairman was given a cool reception in the City. Allan Leighton, currently deputy chief executive, takes over the role relinquished by Mr Norman. The moves were prompted by the proposed retirement of Patrick Gillam as chairman in December.

BAT Industries celebrated its victory in an Indiana courtroom where its subsidiary, Brown & Williamson, successfully defended itself against a damages claim, with a rise 9p to 436p. But the price closed below its best after touching 440p with the company also vowing to oppose President Clinton's proposals to regulate tobacco as a drug. Brokers say the group faces a long, uphill struggle that could further damage its share price having already tumbled

cautious comments from NatWest Securities left Sears down 15p at 96p. It says the disposal programme has destroyed value and left the shares looking as unattractive as ever. There is scope for recovery and better value from Freemans, but NatWest says growth is an illusion and profits have been rebased down.

Asda, the supermarket chain, touched 114p before ending the session 4p lower at 115p after news of a boardroom reshuffle. The announcement that Archie Norman, the man credited with the revival of the group's fortunes, is to move from chief



COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold (1000g)	380.00	+0.20
Silver (1000g)	15.50	+0.05
Copper (1000g)	1.85	+0.01
Aluminium (1000g)	1.25	+0.01
Lead (1000g)	0.85	+0.01
Zinc (1000g)	0.75	+0.01
Nickel (1000g)	1.10	+0.01
Platinum (1000g)	1.20	+0.01
Palladium (1000g)	1.30	+0.01

ICIS-LOR (London 6000g)

Commodity	Price	Change
Brent 15 day (Nov)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Dec)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jan)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Feb)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jul)	19.85	+0.05
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from the 585p level since February, wiping billions off its stock market value.

Bass fell 6p to 836p waiting to see if its proposed £200 million acquisition of the 50 per cent stake of Allied Domecq will be approved by the Government. Allied Domecq formed 1p to 453p.

Lloyds Chemists rose 7p to 498p as the market braced itself for a resumption of hostilities in the battle for control of the group. It follows the news that Lloyds has found buyers for its seven drugs wholesale businesses. Bids from Unichem, down 3p at 257p, and Gehe, the German group, were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in March. Now the market is waiting to see if both will renew their bids.

Confirmation of several bid approaches sent shares of Darby Group up 27p to 109p. The company carries a price tag of almost £30 million. Darby said it was not, at present, in talks with anyone. In the past few months Darby has been linked with Pilkington, 2p easier at 200p, St Gobain, the French glassmaker, and PPG in the US.

WH Smith was a weak market, falling 15p to 515p before full-year figures later today expected to show a sharp downturn. Tony Shirer, of BZW, forecasts a fall in pre-tax profits from £115.3 million to £75 million before write-offs of more than £200 million.

GILT-EDGED: Overnight losses among US Treasury bonds and caution by investors in London before today's auction left prices sharply lower at the close. Brokers fear that the £2.5 billion auction of Treasury 7½ per cent 2006 may not be fully taken up.

Heavy turnover was reported in the futures pit as investors switched from the September to the December series. A total of 54,000 contracts were completed in the September series as the Long Gilt finished £112 lower at £107½. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £7½ in 197½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed three ticks at £103½.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were higher at midday, but traded off their morning peaks after renewed nervousness about interest rates hit the US Treasury market. The Dow Jones industrial average was up by 6.66 points to 5,700.55.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
FT-SE 100	3904.0	3909.0	3904.0	3905.5	1721
FT-SE 250	3904.0	3909.0	3904.0	3905.5	414
FT-SE 1000	3904.0	3909.0	3904.0	3905.5	414

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FT-SE 1000	3904.0	3909.0	3904.0	3905.5	414

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
FT-SE 100	3904.0	3909.0	3904.0	3905.5	1721
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MAJOR INDICES

Index	Value	Change
New York (midday)	5700.55	+6.66
Dow Jones	5700.55	+6.66
S&P Composite	665.12	+1.34
Tokyo	20910.27	+26.53
Nikkei Average	11336.93	+85.71
Hong Kong	560.41	+4.22
Hang Seng	560.41	+4.22
Amsterdam	2262.3	+19.8
BOE index	2262.3	+19.8
Sydney	2262.3	+19.8
AO	2262.3	+19.8
Frankfurt	2262.3	+19.8
DAX	2262.3	+19.8
Singapore	2262.3	+19.8
SEAC	2262.3	+19.8
Brussels	2262.3	+19.8
General	2262.3	+19.8
Paris	2262.3	+19.8
CAC-40	2262.3	+19.8
Zurich	2262.3	+19.8
SKA Gen	2262.3	+19.8
London	2262.3	+19.8
FT 30	2262.3	+19.8
FT 100	2262.3	+19.8
FT 250	2262.3	+19.8
FT 500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 1000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 1500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 2000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 2500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 3000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 3500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 4000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 4500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 5000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 5500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 6000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 6500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 7000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 7500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 8000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 8500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 9000	2262.3	+19.8
FT 9500	2262.3	+19.8
FT 10000	2262.3	+19.8

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Amer Opps U Ln	100	...
Barbican Health	65	...
Chem Design Hldg	1394	...
Dentmaster Hldg	674	...
Egypt Trust	241	...
Electronic Kit	474	...
Fayrewood	19	...
Gabriel Trust (16)	59	...
Gall Thomson Env	65	...
Hambros Smir As C	97	...
Home Govett	12	...
Life Numbers	9	...
Life Numbers Wts	154	...
Land & Edin Publ	3674	...
Schroder Em C C	304	...
Schroder Em C Ws	304	...
Schroder Em C	304	...
Selcter	68	...
Somerfield (145)	1574	...
St James Place Cpt	88	...
Value Realisation	714	...
Walker Crps Wdgie	714	...
West 175 Estates	130	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Bath Press n/p (14)	24	...
Insapex Op n/p (180)	284	...
Sot Power n/p (250)	304	...
Traffimstr n/p (200)	324	...

MAJOR CHANGES

MAJOR CHANGES		
RISSES:		
Firecrest	54p	(+12p)
Panna	135p	(+15p)
Remedol	413p	(+10p)
De La Rive	542p	(+9p)
CRH	533p	(+8p)
Aestrad	205p	(+8p)
Br Borneo	568p	(+22p)
FALLS:		
Euro Leisure	205p	(-7p)
Br Airways	519p	(-11p)
Br Mohair	125p	(-6p)
Pilgricorn Corn	223p	(-9p)
Euro Dianey	148p	(-5p)
Cafe Inns	180p	(-5p)
Whisk Whamp	392p	(-8p)
Orange	196p	(-3p)
Cinemas Prices Page 96		

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Same gift — different party

KLEINWORT BENSON is giving John Major a hand with his speech-making. Or at least that was the plan when the merchant bank decided to spend thousands of pounds on a silver lectern for Number 10.

But now it looks increasingly likely that the lectern, which will be completed by the end of next year, will be used first by Tony Blair. This will be Kleinwort's first donation to the Prime Minister's tableware, although it has provided advisers to the Labour Party in the past.

The tableware also includes pieces paid for by Rothschild, Robert Fleming, Cazenove, and Morgan Grenfell. Hamilton and Inches, Edinburgh's gilt-edged jewellers, is among the silversmiths in the running for the commission.

Hyde Park 'sale'

HOLD ON to your crowns — the fishing and grazing rights to The Serpentine and The Meadow in Hyde Park are about to go under the auctioneer's hammer. The Royal Family has agreed to partake in a "mock" auction next week, in a bid to find a winner for this year's ISVA National Auction Competition. The *faux* lots were dreamt up by James Cannon of Jones Lang Wootton, who won first prize last year for his sale of Manchester United's football ground. He said: "Hyde Park would lend itself well for use as a farm. There are said to be crayfish in The Serpentine, and 30 acres of standing hay in The Meadow."



"Let's try bingo"

SAFeway has caused some confusion among its customers in a well-to-do area of Nottinghamshire. Those ladies who shop were all of a twitter when they stepped into their local Safeway. A sophisticated-looking holder had been attached to the trolleys — at last, somewhere for the mobile phones? No, not quite — a holder for the new self-scanners.

Penny sharing

WITHIN weeks, busy Mark Flawn-Thomas has secured himself a new job and a fiancée. The 42-year-old director of the Waverley Trust, who has been a fund manager with Charterfield Investment Management for the past nine years, has been appointed to run the Waverley Penny Share Fund. He has also just become engaged to the Hon. Clare Lowther, Viscountess of Ulster's 25-year-old daughter, who was Lady Thatcher's PA for five years.

Short of a set

THE battle of the phoneboxes went into another round yesterday, after New World Payphones installed its own version of the traditional red phonebox on Southampton Row. The red phonebox with yellow banding was the cause of much interest as it was put into position in Camden, home to the first ever phonebox in England in 1903. But anyone wanting to use the phonebox will have to wait — until a handset is put in place this afternoon.

MORAG PRESTON



Mark Aspinall, distribution centre manager for N Brown, a Manchester-based business that has made a virtue out of not being glamorous

High street heavyweights check out home shopping

Traditional mail order specialists are being joined by more innovative operators, says Sarah Cunningham

Even if you do not have the time to go shopping, retailers refuse to give up on you as a lost cause. They are putting a lot of money and effort into making sure that although you may never leave your sitting room you still spend money on their goods.

Home shopping is growing fast and is very competitive. Although it now accounts for only 5 per cent of all retail sales, it has enough potential to attract the attention of high street heavyweights such as Burton and Marks & Spencer.

Richard Maney, head of Burton's nascent catalogue operations, says: "We think mail order is going to grow faster than the high street and we also see huge possibilities to augment sales in our shops through catalogues."

Burton recently bought innovations, which sells mainly household gadgets by mail order. Within two years, Burton intends to bring out a catalogue focusing on its strong brands, including Debenhams and Evans.

Even the keenest promoter of home shopping admits that the market will remain restricted because it does not offer the social aspects that most people enjoy in going out to the shops, nor the fun of looking, touching and trying on. In spite of that most mail order sales are of clothes and Mr Maney and others argue that if quality, service and delivery are good enough, home shopping has plenty to scope to expand.

The traditional specialists — Littlewoods, Freemans, Empire and Great Universal Stores — have been joined by smaller, innovative operators such as Next Directory, Land's End, Racing Green and Cot-

ton Traders. And in spite of the high costs of setting up operations, others are expected to enter the market.

Marks & Spencer is studying a move into clothes home shopping and may launch a catalogue next spring. The company, which already runs a few limited mail order operations, says this is pure speculation, but admits it has had a team working on a project for some months.

The thought of Marks & Spencer entering the clothes mail order market is enough to keep the bosses of established catalogue companies awake at night — and it has already accelerated the pace of change in the industry.

The company where change should be most evident in the coming months is GUS, which is not only the largest mail order company in the UK but also has a market share almost twice that of its nearest rival. The changes will be instigated by Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman of Next, who is in the process of taking over as chairman of GUS from his cousin, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone.

The younger Lord Wolfson shares with David Jones, the Next chief executive, much of the credit for the revival of the fortunes of the company during the Nineties and particularly the successful development of Next Directory.

So far, Next is the only high street chain to run a major parallel catalogue business and Mr Maney at Burton said he had been studying it carefully. In the wake of its success, Next

is facing increased competition from operations such as La Redoute, the French mail order giant that has bought Empire and offers through the English version of its own catalogue some stylish French designer clothes.

GUS is a different creature to Next. The company, which has been run with extreme conservatism and has stacked up a cash pile of more than £1 billion, owns Scotch House and Burberry, but its main business is agency catalogues.

Under the system traditionally used by GUS and other big catalogue operators, individuals are recruited to act as agents in their local areas. They show the 1,000-plus page catalogues to friends and family



Julia Carling, TV presenter, promotes Index Extra

and order goods on their behalf. The company pays the agents commission and, in return for easy credit and weekly payments, premium prices are charged for goods.

Social changes mean that agency is in decline. Last year was not good for any of the agency operators and GUS came out as the biggest loser.

Analysts hope the younger Lord Wolfson will begin focusing GUS's catalogues on target sets of customers and accelerate the move into the direct mail order. Direct mail order has been shown to work at Next Directory and, at the opposite end of the market, at N Brown, a Manchester-based business that has made a virtue out of not being glamorous. Its speciality is selling clothes to middle-aged and elderly women and it supplies sales sizes up to a generous 34.

By concentrating on niche markets that are not well served by high street retailers and are well suited to mail order, N Brown has grabbed a quarter of the direct mail order market and last year even joined a bid for the much bigger, privately owned Littlewoods.

Although its bid was rejected, N Brown still harbours ambitions to expand and it is well respected within the industry. The company also has an advantage in that its target market is growing: more than a third of the population will be over 50 by the year 2002.

Littlewoods, like GUS, is trying to move more of its business into direct mail

order, but it is a difficult trick to manage. According to Ray Bowden and Ashley Thomas, retailing analysts at Robert Fleming: "It is proving difficult for the agency companies to run the two types of activity in parallel (different accounting systems, different catalogues, undermining existing agents and withdrawing agents' commissions). Meanwhile, end-customers of the agents are drifting to the direct companies who are busy locking them into their databases."

Although much hyped, electronic shopping has had little impact so far on the catalogue business. To date, sales from the Internet and from television shopping channels have been small and account for only about 0.6 per cent of the home shopping market. Verdict research says:

According to Jim Martin, chief executive of N Brown, the big development will arrive with interactive television, which should be free of the fidelity technology that deters most customers from using the Internet or other computer-based systems.

The advantage of user-friendly TV technology when it arrives will be that it will allow retailers to find out even more about their customers. They already go to great lengths to glean as much information as possible so that they can tailor what they offer to suit your exact tastes.

The payoff for choosing to stay in your living room and shop from a direct mail catalogue regularly is that the company that publishes it probably knows not just your favourite colour, but also your spouse's favourite colour, the ages of your children, and even whether you have put on weight.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Responsibility of auditors still not clear despite Caparo case judgment

From Mr James A. Leek
Sir, May the eponymous victim who brought and paid for the [Caparo] legal action have a word?

1. Institutional investors and analysts will be disappointed to hear that in the view of Professor Myddleton (Business Letters, August 20) they are to make no judgment about a company's future prospects from studying its past accounts, and that, in any event, they are merely speculators. One begins to wonder why public companies put so much effort into producing their annual report.

2. In the facts of the Caparo case, certain directors of the company it acquired were found to be fraudulent and thus their accounts gave a false account of their "stewardship" — and yet the auditors still denied liability.

3. Post-Caparo, the efforts of Cadbury and the auditing profession seem to have been directed mainly at shunting more responsibility onto the directors (including non-executives), whilst protecting themselves with limited liability companies and Channel Island registration. The result is that, whilst corporate governance may have improved, the auditors' responsibility for accounts is as shrouded in mystery and mystique as ever — as your recent correspondence shows.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES A. LEAK
(Non-executive director),
Caparo Group,
Caparo House,
103 Baker Street, W1.

From Mr Duncan Alexander
Sir, It is useful to see Professor

Myddleton (Business Letters, August 20) say: "Hence modern emphasis on 'decision-usefulness' as the primary purpose of accounts is misguided." Combined with the Lord Oliver statement in the Caparo judgment that: "For my part, however, I can see nothing in the statutory duties of a company's auditor to suggest that they were intended by Parliament to protect the interests of investors..." this clearly means that UK audited accounts are to be of no value to investment decision-making.

It is perhaps encouraging that the US and some European countries are giving investors in their markets some rights to rely on audited accounts for making their investment judgments. Let the market for capital decide who is to be right on this matter.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN ALEXANDER,
Gillridge Lane,
Crowthorne,
East Sussex.

Added sweetener for B&B investors

From Anthony Kilvert
Sir, I cannot imagine what calculations were made by participants in the recent MORI survey taken on behalf of the Bradford & Bingley (The Times, August 14).

If an investor had £10,000 at a "generous savings rate" of say 5 per cent clear of tax it would take 30 years to achieve extra interest equivalent to the quoted £1,500 merger/conversion windfall over and above a lower rate of say 4.5 per cent

Insurers 'slapdash with our money'

From Mr Robert Breckman
Sir, The world of insurance relies on computers and if they go wrong it is not the insurer who picks up the tab, it is the insured.

I recently received two demands for my motor insurance from the RAC. I then received a reminder and a receipt for the payment of the premium on the same day.

A flurry of telephone calls and letters and the matter was rectified. I put in a nominal claim of £25 to be paid to charity to cover my costs, stress etc.

Exactly the same sort of administrative failings had occurred in the previous year when my compensation claim was then settled without comment. This year it was refused.

The managing director grandly stated that they had been taken over by Guardian Direct for £60 million and that they make only £40 per policy and people do make mistakes and we the insured should not complain and claim compensation. We thereby pick up the

Own your own?

From Mr Aidan Lyons
Sir, With reference to Jonathan Pryn's article on the company car (August 21) and the general reluctance to give them up, I wish to draw users' attention to the fact that whilst they presently bear a heavy tax burden for this perk as if it was "income", in most cases they are unlikely to qualify for pension rights nor redundancy payments on this notional "income". Like Archie Norman to "own your own" may well be a better financial option in the long term.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN V. LYONS,
64 Lindon Park Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Game of the name in banking circles

From Mr Nigel L. Denton
Sir, It is not for me to say whether Eddie George would better be described as the chairman rather than the Governor of the Bank of England (Business Letters, August 20). However, the Bank of Scotland, which also has a Governor, more appropriately continues to describe and to address its stockholders as proprietors.

Yours faithfully,
N. L. DENTON,
12 Maria Court,
Southcote Road, Reading.

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if business letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171-782 5112.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Is EMU going to be able to shrug off the Fiat factor?

The conversion of Cesare Romiti, the president of Fiat, to the Augustinian approach to EMU — "make me virtuous, but not yet" — has not disturbed the holiday calm of the foreign exchange markets. Who cares about Italy, after all? No one expected it to join in the first round. The core (which really means Germany and France) is what matters; and the markets appear to assume that the unexpectedly large cut in German interest rates has saved the cause. But this could be much too facile.

Signor Romiti can hardly be dismissed as a prejudiced outsider, and his message, that the drive for EMU is a major cause of high unemployment on the Continent, is hardly even controversial. French voters, especially, will feel that he speaks for them, and may want to drive that message home on the streets.

The exchange market does recognise this. Analysis of the French franc's problems at length, and the German cut has done virtually nothing to help the French franc (which the French hopelessly suppose was the main point of it); the franc is still hovering just above ERM crisis level. Only the bond market still backs EMU unreservedly. It has been trading for more than a year on the assumption that Herr Kohl will see that EMU starts on time, whatever the Maastricht criteria may suggest: so the convergence of European bond yields remains intact. But which is more credible? Currency dealers, it is true, have forecast at least five of the last two crises; but the bond markets can be not only wrong, but obstinately wrong, as they have shown over falling inflation. This is a judgment call.

Everyone recognises that it is now virtually impossible for France — and very possibly for Germany, too — to meet the Maastricht criteria on time. What the bond market is backing is a fudge, relying on the wording of the treaty. But how much fudge can the markets stomach? It is all very well to talk of "satisfactory trends", but the French deficit shows no trend at all: it is stuck. And how long can M. Juppe persist with his trend-bending

efforts? His planned further spending cuts of Fr60 billion were never going to be popular. Now that an honest Prime Minister would have to admit that "it's hurting, and it isn't working", they could prove intolerable.

Of course, a strong spontaneous economic recovery would solve all these problems, bringing down both deficits and unemployment: so it's the green shoots season in the German Chancellery and in the Elysée. Just as happened here a few years ago — after another deflation — the politicians hail every positive number, and ignore every negative one. But much the strongest positive indicator is the past growth of the German broad money supply, never easy to read when cross-border flows are so large.

But that growth is now fading so rapidly that the Bundesbank Council at its last meeting was not, as it was until recently, to explain it away, but of a possible undershoot. Meanwhile, more reliable pointers, such as the IFO survey in Germany, and French consumer confidence, point the way.

The bond dealers could still prove better forecasters than the politicians, and see EMU launched on time, regardless of plausibility. Herr Kohl's political will remains a formidable fact; and in any case, German policymakers seem much more worried by the excessive potential strength of the mark should EMU be delayed than by any prospective weakness of the Euro. So this column is not Eurosceptic in the literal sense — "it can't happen" — much as I might wish to reach that conclusion; it may still happen, even if it shouldn't.

The irony is, though, that if we do get a soft Euro, it is the complacent bond dealers rather than the nervy currency men who are likely to lose money. France's problems owe much less to a mildly overvalued franc than to a savagely overvalued domestic deflation: little cause to mark down the franc. But if Euro-bond, in its new meaning, proves something of a dirty word, watch for rising long rates over the Channel.



Cesare Romiti has adopted an Augustinian approach

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

UNITED KINGDOM CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the dividends declared on 30 July 1996, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R7 0/20 South African currency to 1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 26 August 1996, as advised by the companies' South African bankers.

The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows:

Name of Company	Dividend	Amount per share (pence)
(All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	N/A	N/A
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	147	1.21172
New Wires Limited	91	4.44806
Vogelbusch Metal Holdings Limited	99	4.21172

London Office and Office of the United Kingdom Registrar: per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greentree House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

27 August 1996

By order of the board
London Secretaries
S.J. Dunning, Secretary

GOLD FIELDS GROUP

Equities rally after early fall

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

BANKS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

BREW, PIES, PUBS & REST

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

BUILDING MATERIALS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

ENGINEERING

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

CHEMICALS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

DISTRIBUTORS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

ELECTRICITY

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

HEALTHCARE

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

INSURANCE

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

MINING

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

OIL & GAS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

MEDIA

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	P/E

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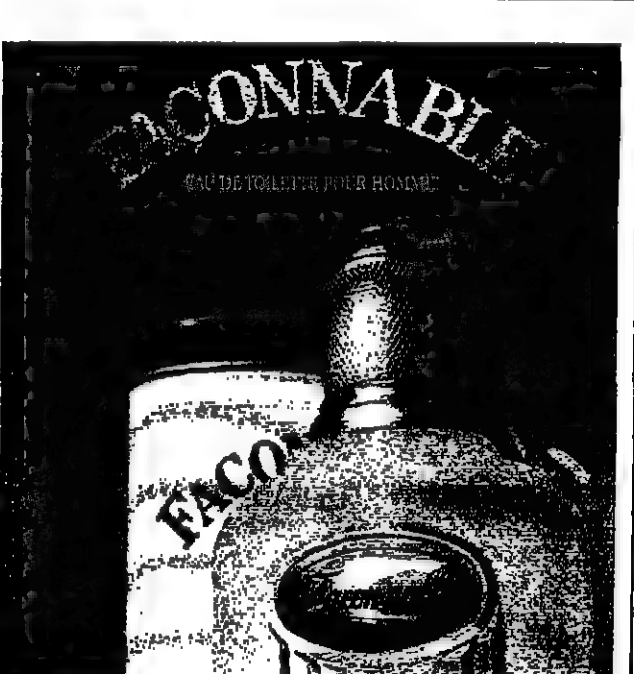
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TELEVISION

The new boss of *Omnibus* pledges to keep the arts firmly in the BBC mainstream



JAZZ

The spirit of Ted Lewis, jazz's "top-hatted tragedian", is evoked at the Bude Festival

THE TIMES ARTS



PROMS 1

On the 150th anniversary of its premiere, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* is superbly revived



PROMS 2

... while the mesmerising Evelyn Glennie livens up an otherwise staid "family" concert

Lights, camera ... culture!

Can Gillian Greenwood invigorate BBC TV's arts coverage? She talks to Richard Morrison

It must be one of the best jobs in the arts ... and one of the most terrifying too. You are given a budget that could subsidise a British orchestra for centuries. On a good night, you can reach more people in an hour than will visit the British Museum in a year. And you are guaranteed 20 prime slots a season on the premier channel of the world's greatest public-broadcasting organisation. What more could a cultural missionary want?

No wonder that Gillian Greenwood, announced this month as the new editor of *Omnibus*, is bubbling like a hot spring. If she describes *Omnibus* as "BBC's flagship arts programme" once in the course of our conversation, she does so a dozen times. And why not? For most viewers, the 26-year-old *Omnibus* and TV's 20-year-old *South Bank Show* still define arts coverage on television. And Greenwood has been a leading candidate to take the helm at *Omnibus* since producing, earlier this year, BBC2's splendid *History of British Art*, one of the few television arts documentaries in recent years to present genuinely new information.

So the right woman has been chosen for an important job. But just how important is *Omnibus* these days? As Greenwood admits: "this is a period when the arts have been rather quiet on television." That, some would say, is a tactful understatement. In the past few years arts programmes have been marginalised on the mainstream channels. Even "flagships" have sometimes been forced to sail into the lonely waters of the post-11pm schedules. The impression is that the British BBC has little time for programmes that don't deliver ratings. And, as Greenwood says, "arts ratings don't compare very well with other popular documentaries".

In fact, *Omnibus* has averaged "around two million". The figure seems enormous when placed in the context of attendance for live arts events: even Oasis "only" play to 250,000 people. But it is relatively tiny when set

against the figures that seem to matter most inside the BBC: the dizzying ratings for the soaps. *Omnibus*'s figures "could maybe get a bit better", says Greenwood. "Could, and perhaps should, if Greenwood is to climb further up the Corporation ladder. For by the time that she replaces *Omnibus*'s current editor, Nigel Williams, the BBC will have split into a kind of upstairs-downstairs operation, with its programme-makers required to "sell their product" to hard-nosed channel controllers whose prime job will be to ensure that the BBC retains its

Television currently lacks any way of reviewing the arts

market share against ever-increasing competition. What ever else it achieves, these potentially exciting negotiations seem unlikely to enhance the confidence of people making arts programmes, even for "flagship" series. That is why Greenwood's job is terrifying.

What does she consider to be the main problem facing BBC TV's arts coverage? "Well, the *Late Show* came and went in that great, late-Eighties burst of enthusiasm for the arts as all-things-cultural. Some loved it, some hated it but at least it gave television a capacity for reviewing the arts, and for providing a noticeboard for what was going on. That's what we lack now. And when the *Late Show* disappeared I suspect that the BBC did retreat into pondering what next to do about the arts."

"But actually we may be entering a rather good period. There's a new arts commissioning editor at Channel 4, and I expect they will push hard to win the high ground in arts coverage. That's good: the

competition will force the BBC to fight back."

Or else to renounce the high ground entirely. The uncomfortable thing about editing *Omnibus*, as Greenwood knows, is that the viewing figures vary alarmingly, depending on content. So the temptation to ditch even mildly esoteric subjects is strong — especially if *Omnibus* is to hold its slot on mainstream BBC1. "Obviously, programmes about films bring in good audiences," Greenwood says. "But theatre is difficult to treat on television; it's a problem of form, not content. And you are unlikely to get much audience for contemporary dance. Except, of course, if you have a tabloid sensation on your hands, as the *South Bank Show* did with the DVB ballet about Dennis Nilsen."

But if *Omnibus* cannot tackle "difficult" subjects without falling beneath the acceptable threshold for BBC1 ratings, why not transfer it to BBC2, where it could command a better time-slot in a more congenial schedule? Greenwood bristles at the idea: it would be an admission that the arts will never make popular television. "It's important that *Omnibus* stays where it is. BBC1 has documentary strands like *Panorama* and *Everyman* that sweep broadly across a range of subjects. It's vital to have an arts strand on the main channel doing the same."

Besides, she adds, she is "pretty sure" that Michael Jackson, the new Controller of BBC1, is committed to *Omnibus*. "He thinks the arts are important," she enthuses. "It's unlikely that he would schedule *Omnibus* at midnight." Lancashire born and Oxford educated, Greenwood spent seven years in literary magazines before joining London Weekend Television in 1984 as a writer and researcher. She subsequently became an LWT producer, working for five years on the *South Bank Show*, an experience she describes as "the most formative of my working life". So will some of the



Gillian Greenwood, new editor of *Omnibus*, worked on the rival *South Bank Show*

Melvyn Bragg style be rubbing off on *Omnibus*? "The great strength of the *South Bank Show* is its fantastically strong branding," she says. "That's because of Melvyn, up front, introducing every programme. *Omnibus* has never had that, and perhaps has been less visible in the schedules because of it. But I don't think there is anyone else like Melvyn around, so we will continue not to have a presenter."

Instead, Greenwood will try to tie *Omnibus* more closely to major arts events. "Big art exhibitions, the opening of the Tate Bankside, that kind of thing. Not every *Omnibus* will

be plugged into an event, because then you are in danger of being run by the PR industry. But it is important for the BBC to reflect what's happening."

Does that also mean that Greenwood will be encouraging *Omnibus*'s directors to jettison narcissistic, clever-clogs film-making in favour of more straightforward coverage of the arts? If so, several million viewers would be eternally grateful. Television, like newspaper critics, should be explaining the arts, not adding an extra layer of obfuscation.

"Well, arts documentaries do lend themselves to auteurism," Greenwood re-

plies carefully. "I'm sure it all stems from Ken Russell. And *Omnibus* must attract the best film-makers, who will sometimes want to produce complex films. But there is more room for straight documentaries that take in performance and have some traditional commentary. That doesn't mean boring. Old-fashioned documentaries are often the ones that people most enjoy watching."

On which reassuring note, Gillian Greenwood departs to plan her first series. BBC1 Controller permitting, it will hit our screens in the autumn of 1997. And not at midnight, one trusts.

It's trad, dad, and no mistake

JAZZ: Alyn Shipton elbows his way through the novelty clarinettists and banjo players at the Bude Festival

This Sunday marked the 25th anniversary of the death of clarinetist Ted Lewis, the "top-hatted tragedian" of jazz. With his catchphrase "Is everybody happy?", Lewis was an anachronism in his own lifetime, a man whose novelty clarinet playing predated the 1920s and whose vaudeville persona was rapidly overtaken in the age of television and radio.

The central concert on the first weekend of this year's eight-day Bude Jazz Festival was a tribute to Lewis, and a sense of that anachronism hung heavy in the showery seaside air. Bude is Britain's largest festival dedicated almost exclusively to traditional jazz, and in many of the 100 bands on display novelty clarinets are played as if for real, while clanking banjos pay scant regard to underlying harmony.

Few other jazz festivals, however, have such energetic crowd participation. A band which brings the audience to its feet and happily singing *Down By The Riverside* will be judged a success, even if its rhythm section is leaden.

One notable trend among many of the bands at Bude was the timidity of their rhythm playing, with few emulating the driving drumming of the best American bands. One honourable exception was Sweden's Max Lager Jazz Band, whose uninhibited playing captured the carefree spirit of Preservation Hall in its heyday.

The Swedes did not set about copying individual musicians but played swinging, relaxed jazz by being themselves within an overall style. This approach paid dividends for the excellent Toss Valley Jazzmen whose vocalist, Sue

Kibbey, sang a magnificent a cappella *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* alongside US guest Jim Beatty.

Clarinetist Beatty is one of the discoveries of Bude. Based in Oregon, he plays with a broad tone emphasising the lower and middle registers with a mixture of creole delicacy and fiery imagination. Reed playing of comparable strength came from the veteran British tenorist Don Rendell, something of a modernist fish in the sea of banjos, who won over a suspicious crowd by the sheer power of his playing.

The Ted Lewis tribute involved some of the most accomplished playing and least hackneyed repertoire of the weekend. In an imaginative set, the Original Syncopation Jazz Band brought to life the music of hot quints from the 1920s, augmented by bass sax and banjo. Their star turn was the trombonist, vocalist and arranger Christine Woodcock.

The final part of the Lewis tribute involved a specially assembled band led by the pianist Keith Nichols. Picking a delicate path between the corny and the obscure, Nichols produced a brilliantly varied set, with clarinetist Norman Field stoically reproducing Lewis's strangled clarinet sounds before fluently emulating his more famous sidemen Benny Goodman and Jimmy Dorsey.

With Alan Elsdon's relaxed trumpet lead and Spats Langham's crooning vocals, Nichols's band proved that it is possible to combine impeccable musicianship and unusual tunes with the less subtle ingredients of crowd-pleasing that would have been familiar to Ted Lewis himself.



Ted Lewis in 1928. The jazz showman's vaudeville style made him a musical anachronism in his own lifetime

No need to shout

PLAYING to a full house, a large number of whom were fellow musicians — always a good sign — the New York-born pianist Joey Calderazzo more than justified his enviable word-of-mouth reputation with these two sets of consistently absorbing, at times positively sizzling, trio music.

Backed by his drummer brother Gene — with whom the 31-year-old pianist originally discovered jazz in his mid teens — and local bassist Arnie Somogyi, Calderazzo moved easily between his trademark rolling, McCoy Tyner-like climactic style and a more unexpected, but no less assured, lyricism.

The latter mood would have come as no surprise to anyone familiar with Calderazzo's latest AudioQuest recording, *Secrets*, which, featuring a number of subtle horn arrangements by Bob Belden, frequently showcases an introspective side of the pianist not over-represented either on his celebrated sideman work with Michael Brecker and Branford Marsalis or on his previous three Blue Note albums.

Granted, the trio's opener, *No One Knows I'm Here*, despite being taken from *Secrets*, was an arresting, hard-driving original magnificently propelled by Gene Calderazzo's powerful drums and Somogyi's pounding bass, but they immediately provided

Joey Calderazzo
Pizza Express, WI

ed a highly effective contrast with their subsequent piece. Chick Corea's fluent, intensely tuneful *Tones for Joan's Bones*, a perennial favourite of Calderazzo's because, as he commented, "it practically plays itself".

Much the same comment might reasonably be made about the bulk of the remainder of Calderazzo's selections, whether they were evergreens or the Coltrane flagbearer *Giant Steps*. On all the standards, however, the pianist took an intensely personal route through the familiar changes, examining *My Shining Hour* from the perspective of two keys, and subjecting *Autumn Leaves* to a rigorous, adventurous workout which audibly impressed a number of the pianists in the audience.

The Way You Look Tonight, too, provided an excuse for some dazzling interplay between the brothers, but it was the sweetly wistful original *Aurora* — one of the highlights of *Secrets* — that provided some of the evening's most satisfying moments, neatly vindicating Calderazzo's recently expressed determination to "lighten up and speak in a more relaxed voice".

CHRIS PARKER

BBC PROMS: A famous premiere recalled; and a staid family concert

Prophet properly honoured

A "NOBLE artist who, surrounded by the Baal-worship of a false art has, with genius and study, succeeded in faithfully maintaining his service to the true art like another Elijah". The musician was Mendelssohn; the eulogiser none other than Prince Albert. Yet amazingly, *Elijah* had never visited the Proms until 1991. But on Monday the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales and the London Symphony Chorus, conducted by Richard Hickox, made up magnificently for lost time in a 150th anniversary performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio.

The last decade has seen a gradual move from disenchantment to re-enchantment with the work. Now that the mixed Romantic genre piece is receiving its imprimatur from the likes of John Eliot

Gardiner and Philippe Herreweghe — well, it must be all right.

Herreweghe's 1993 recording of *Elijah* is, in fact, one of the few which revert to Mendelssohn's original use of soloists groups to provide textual contrast with the massed choruses. England, where the work has been such a mainstay of the amateur choral society, has been reluctant to yield up a single choral line. But Richard Hickox faithfully shared out *Elijah*'s solo parts thrillingly among all of ten singers.

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formist fervour and linguistic energy meet a burgeoning Wagner hero, the result is formidable. Smiling as Anthony Rolfe Johnson (Obadiah) sang his *If with all your heart*, as if he were itching to sing it himself, Terfel went on to shout the odds at Ahab and to egg on the pagans to shout louder for Basil.

John Rigby was the wise, mezzo Angel that Elgar was to remember, gently guiding the prophet — then donning a silk wrap over her angelic white for her next incarnation as Ahab's imperious Queen. The chorus (both of them) have the last word: the buoyancy of their performance, within Hickox's robust and perfectly calculated tempos, still remained the glory of this celebratory night.

HILARY FINCH

at the front of the orchestra for the premiere of Geoffrey Burgon's percussion concerto, *City Adventures*. This was more problematic: jazz-inspired, but often surprisingly brutal and grumpy.

The first movement, *A Meeting with Charlie Mingus*, throbbed on a series of pizzicato-bass riffs, with Glennie kicking the ensemble along from an Everest of a drum-kit. Mellow marimba and vibraphone writing coloured the slow movement, but its lyrical impulse seemed strangely restricted. More successful was the finale, *City Dances*. Built on an insistently syncopated single pitch, it incorporated exciting flares-up for brass and drums before fading into a nocturnal coda of beguiling descending scales.

Glennie played it with great flair. Sales of junior drum-kits will soar this week. But I doubt whether this concert did much else to advance classical music's cause among the young.

RICHARD MORRISON

Not the best way to start

Family Prom
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Rodeo are also pieces that engage young minds: bright colours; jolly rhythms; strong narrative interest. But it was left to parents to supply the linking stories. Not good enough, I'm afraid, for a "family" concert.

Luckily, Evelyn Glennie's mesmerising percussion virtuosity requires no preamble. First she appeared, dazzling in gold lame, at the back of the arena to play *Reaching Out*, a frenetic but superbly cogent multi-bongo solo by the young Scottish composer David Horne.

Then she took a conventional position

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■ EDINBURGH

At the Traverse the parade of new plays continues with *Entertaining Angels*, about a broken family

■ EDINBURGH

...and *Viper's Opium*, which traces the start of a relationship that ripens quickly from the platonic

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ EDINBURGH

Fans of Richard Strauss enjoy a fascinating reconstruction of an early film of *Der Rosenkavalier*

■ TOMORROW

A Tuscan stunner? Bertolucci's latest movie, *Stealing Beauty*, is reviewed by Geoff Brown



Grant Gillespie, Astrid Azurdia, Alicia Hood, Karl Pittom, Lucy McLellan, Gabriel Quigley and Timothy Webster in *Entertaining Angels*

Subtlety in the shadows

THEATRE: A trick and a treat, sorry angels and spiritual confusion — three plays at the Traverse

When I was very young I read a comic about a hero whose magic candle, when lit, spread darkness. This memorable image came back to me during *Here Lies Henry*, which introduces an extraordinary lighting effect about 20 minutes into the show.

Daniel MacIvor, co-creator and gawky, seemingly uneasy performer, is standing as he often does centre stage, kidding us about his life. Sometimes he has been fully lit, standing in a large square, but now the darkness has crept inward and only the upper part of his body is clearly visible. And what is surely a pale shadow appears at his feet — the outline of his body apparently made of light, spreading out across the darkness like something painted by

Magritte. How this is done becomes evident when it happens again on a wall, but that does not wipe out the power of its first appearance.

Uncommon creative quality informs all areas of the Toronto-based Da Da Kamera show — Jan Komarek's lighting, Richard Feren's sound and the sensitive direction by co-creator Daniel Brooks.

MacIvor presents the life of Henry Tom Gallery, who tells us that he is a liar but deviously blurs out truths. Has he burnt down the family home? Is a lover dead in the next room? His narrative loops back, highlighting incidents mentioned first in passing, and personifying Hope, Love, Beauty — "Reality with



her alarm-clock earrings" — on the way to its target, our unavoidable, unwelcome death. MacIvor's performance, deceptively casual, is as strong and elegant as tempered steel. The production won a Fringe first.

The next two shows won

praise and awards elsewhere but proved a disappointment. In *LookOut Theatre's Entertaining Angels*, by Nicola McCartney and Lucy McLellan, a more than average dysfunctional family is suffering the consequence of the mother's departure from Liverpool for Ireland 15 years earlier. She was Catholic, her husband communist. One daughter hears loud exhalations that may presage supernatural visions, the other daughter is anorexic. The wayward son, believing his mother dead, beats up the cousin who brings news. The writing ranges between the simplistic and the vague, and characters pour out their lives at the drop of a question. None of the

actors forget their lines but one in particular (the father) never becomes credible.

The *Spirit* (Voyager Productions) arranges six of Joe Pintauro's short plays around three others that show a man's illness, his death from AIDS and a visit to his surviving lover by the dead man's father. Two priests try to catch birds that have flown into their church; a troubled dude, well played by Tom Gottlieb, cannot keep an erection with a woman he loves. Guilt, remorse, the death of Pablo Neruda: moments and performances are affecting, and Matt Tauber makes good use of white gauze to separate scenes. But Pintauro's glancing approach to his material is over-subtle and the gathering of this particular group of plays lacks logic.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Send in the clowns, then the puppets

FRINGE

Frankly the Fringe, hitting 30 this year, is distinctly thin if it's terrible plays you are after. However, surprise hits have popped up. The hottest tickets in town are for a Russian clown show and an American ventriloquist act.

Slava Polunin's *Snowshow* (Assembly Rooms) is a sweet and funny if fractionally sentimental double act. It keeps at least one foot planted in the familiar routines of the Big Top, but this is classy and profound clowning. Polunin and his hangdog, saggy-faced sidekick Angela de Castro have consummate comic timing as they shamble about signing mightily.

They also have delightful personal touches. Polunin's red shoes are shuffling slippers (if not small mammals) made of mopheads. On a grander scale, these clowns have Beckertian bleakness. A small tramp in an empty galaxy slips a noose around his neck only to discover, yanking at the other end, that he is inescapably (or life-savily) tied to his fellow.

Snowshow pictures fools in winter: ultimately alone, old, out in the cold. Polunin is, implicitly, the King Lear of clowns, his distracted hair a windswept cloud. In a dazzling *coup de théâtre*, he is finally engulfed in a vast blizzard, a million fragments of paper blowing out across the auditorium, spinning towards us in a blaze of light, swirling softly like moths.

Over in the Beck's Famous (and horrendously smoky) Spiegeltent, David Strassman has even snazzier technological tricks up his sleeve. He is not only a flawless ventriloquist with quick-witted jokes. In the closing minutes, his dummies and soft toys reveal that they have lives of their own. These animatronic puppets are dumbfounding. Untouched by human hands, a trio of rubbery baby brontosaurus give us a tiny rock concert, lip-synching more convincingly than most human beings to *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Even when Strassman is manually operating his puppets, they prove shockingly sophisticated. Eddie the small-brained Texan teddy, bashfully burying his nose in his tummy and making us all go soppy, turns out to be a calculating little beast and not so innocent about his nether regions. Meanwhile, Strass-

man's boy-mannequin Chuck is scandalously rude, a swivel-eyed, foul-mouthed psycho. Perfectly horrid. Actually though, the scariest thing was the audience. Having gone all gooey over Eddie, they transmogrified into a stamping mob when a man in the front row — having been entertainingly savaged by Chuck — refused to hug the teddy.

In terms of Fringe drama, *Starving Artists*' bare-staged two-hander *Viper's Opium* is worth catching at The Traverse. Writer Godfrey Hamilton has hit upon a structurally simple yet emotionally complicated story which traces the platonic, then passionate, then damaged friendship between a shy gay

man (Mark Pinkosh's Curtis) and an earthy, sexually open but also shaky woman (Kathryn Howden's Cricket). Both are reformed alcoholics on the wrong side of the tracks in Tinseltown. Howden and Pinkosh are a comic duo and a touching couple: she buxom and big-mouthed with a touch of Miss Piggy, he skinny, nifty and starting. Their romance is too cute at times but is sexily choreographed and beautifully observed as Curtis struggles desperately against his desire to touch Cricket. Pinkosh, although teetering on mannered theatricality, is absorbing, punctuating monologues with sinuous fingers. Hamilton, when not waxing poetic, has a sharp ear for the intricacies of manic talkers.

KATE BASSETT



Cricket (Kathryn Howden) and Curtis (Mark Pinkosh) become more than just good friends in *Viper's Opium*

Celluloid wears better than plastic on stage

WHETHER it was by chance or good planning, much of Saturday in Edinburgh was devoted to Strauss and Schoenberg, and the juxtaposition of *Der Rosenkavalier* (1911) and *Pierrot Lunaire* (1912) said a lot about the various roads music has travelled this century.

It was not Strauss's opera, but Robert Wiene's 1926 film that was given two showings at the Festival Theatre. Strauss needed a lot of persuading to have any part of the project, and was plainly in it for the money: he cobbled together goblets of the opera for full orchestra to accompany Hofmannsthal's revised screenplay, filling in the gaps with earlier occasional pieces.

Strauss scholars have found no evidence of his having any hand in the chamber version of the score, which was of course much more widely used, and indeed played by Ensemble 13

under Manfred Reichert last Saturday. It's not a great film, but of considerable interest to those who know the opera. The Marschallin's absent husband features prominently: there's an epic battle for him to win before he rides back to see what his wife is up to in Vienna (not a lot, apart from some fiery kisses on the shoulder), and there are some charming locations, from Schönbrunn to a tumbledown country estate in Carinthia for Ochs. Ironically enough, acting honours are decisively taken by the singer Michael Bohnen, a famous Ochs of the day: Huguette Duflos does heavy-breathing and flutters her eyelashes attractively as the Marschallin; Jacques Catelain, the male Octavian, seems most at ease when disguised as Mariandl — he's a

dead ringer for Jack Lemmon's Daphne in *Some Like It Hot*. Tireless work by Berndt Heller in the film archives of Prague, Vienna, London and Berlin has produced the fullest version to be shown in recent times, but it is still without the ending: the Field Marshall glowers at the *fête champêtre* that replaces the seedy inn of the opera, and there it breaks off, with about 15 minutes still to go.

But Heller has examined cue sheets and rehearsal scores, and this enabled Reichert and his lively players to demonstrate that Strauss took his cobbling seriously: it all fits together neatly. A fascinating afternoon.

Pierrot came to the Royal Lyceum in a staging from the Teatro Stabile di Parma. Maddalena Crippa has every-

OPERA

Rosenkavalier/ Pierrot Lunaire Edinburgh

thing — perfect German, a wide range of tone colour — for Schoenberg's speech-song cycle, which was set almost at naught by the use of voice amplification: her carollings and swoonings consistently drowned the chamber ensemble stuck in the wings. This artificial sound picture was not, to put it mildly, quite what Schoenberg had in mind.

The second part was devoted to Italian popular songs from the inter-war years, in which Crippa proved to be the Elisabeth Schwarzkopf of shanties: not a phrase went by without having something "done" to it — rhythm, melody, text, all were submerged in "art".

What these innocent numbers had done to deserve to be trampled to death so brutally, I know not. A dispiriting evening.

RODNEY MILNES

paniment most effectively offset the sophistication of the main item in the concert.

Notorious for its difficulty since its partial first performance at the Holland Festival last year, *Songs of Despair and Sorrow* for double chorus and instrumental ensemble is a challenging and masterful work. Wisely, having assembled and rehearsed the Edinburgh Festival Singers specifically for this first complete performance, David Jones conducted it twice in the one concert.

The first impression was how bleak was the reflection of the melancholy of the Russian texts. The second was how beautiful the choral sound was, and how apt the colouring of accordions and harmoniums and the miscellaneous strings, brass and percussion of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

GERALD LARNER

CONCERT

György Kurtág Usher Hall

thing very authentically Samuel Beckett in the experience of hearing Idiko Mányok struggling to articulate (in Hungarian) that writer's *What is the Word*. Certainly, also, there is something very moving about an actress rendered speechless by a traffic accident returning to the stage after her partial recovery through song.

But there is also something intrusive about observing her therapy, with the composer cueing just about her every word from an institutional upright piano, used as an instrument in the interpretation of a text. Whatever one's reaction, though, the rudimentary vocal line and the naked simplicity of the piano accom-

panyment most effectively offset the sophistication of the main item in the concert.

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GERALD LARNER

Stars are born

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In *Tongue Tied* (8.15pm), Sara Clifford examines the heart-breaking choice faced by a woman in a prison cell: upholding her principles or protecting her family.

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mission, be monitored for cardiovascular fluctuations

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IN 1956 the actor, director and schoolmaster Michael Croft and a small band of pupils from Alen's School mounted a production of *Henry V* in London's East End — and the seeds of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain were sown. Since then, NYT has given a start to many now-established actors, including

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The music of György Kurtág brought intense variation in a wide range of voices to the Usher Hall

Coming up roses, if Labour wins

Rachel Kelly reports on the influence that a change of government could have on the property market

The inquiries have begun. The grander estate agents are fielding calls from British buyers for whom the prospect of a Labour government is prompting them to think of moving to Monaco or the Channel Islands.

Patrick Dring, of Knight Frank, says: "We suddenly seem to have received many more inquiries for tax-haven properties. Many people believe that a Labour government might raise taxes for the wealthy, and they want to move before their money is taxed any further." The view is that it takes a year for people to rearrange their affairs.

Last December, Britain's largest landowners met at Blenheim Palace to discuss taxes under Labour. The meeting, jointly organised by Coopers & Lybrand, suggested that there might be a case for "bringing forward any plans you may have for becoming non resident".

But what would Labour mean for the property market more generally? After all, Jersey, for example, insists that new buyers have minimum assets of between £10 and £12 million and a guaranteed annual income that will ensure tax payments of between £150,000 and £200,000. Other tax havens effectively limit new residents by the prohibitive cost of property.

The answer is that the future of property lies in the future of the economy more generally. Whatever Labour's specific housing policies, none matter unless the wider economic framework is successful. And the great unknown in the economic boiling pot of interest rates, exchange rates and public finances is fiscal policy. Labour still refuses to be drawn on taxes.

Gary Marsh, a spokesman for the Halifax Building Society, says: "It's in the macroeconomic sphere that we'll see if new Labour really is new. There are two real driving forces behind the housing market: personal disposable incomes and interest rates. If either party wanted to raise interest rates or income tax, it would certainly have a detrimental effect on the housing market."

Lorna Vestey, of Knight Frank, agrees that a rise in tax rates would be the single most detrimental action Labour could take. Yolande Barnes, head of residential research at Savills, feels Labour is reluctant to raise income tax levels in the first term, though it might create a higher rate tax band of 50 per cent.

As for interest rates, the likelihood is that Labour's policy would be similar to current Government policy, Ms Barnes says. "I don't think Labour would want to put interest rates up, but it is all a matter of how the markets react to them. If sterling strengthens after a Labour victory, because of Labour's commitment to the European monetary union, then there may even be scope to reduce interest rates. But other economic forecasters believe

that interest rates may have to rise to contain inflationary pressures in the market, regardless of who is in power."

As for particular housing policies, the differences between the two parties have shrunk. Mr Marsh says: "I can no longer see any clear blue water between the Tories and Labour." Labour, for example, would keep mortgage interest relief at source (Miras),

previously a target, at its present levels. This is a year in which Labour has been making strenuous efforts to reinvent itself as the homeowner's party, while the Conservative record as the party of home ownership has become tarnished.

In the late 1980s the "homeowning democracy" was seen as one of the greatest achievements of the Thatcher revolution.

But the property bubble has burst, and Tony Blair can now brand the Tories as the party of "negative equity, repossession, broken dreams and falling house values".

As James Barty, economist with Morgan Grenfell, says: "It seems unlikely that a Labour government would be as pro-home ownership as a Conservative government, but on the other hand the Tories have recently been curtailing their tax

incentives for homeowners." Both Miras and income support for unemployed homeowners have been hit by the Tories. There is little to choose between them.

In terms of particular policies, Labour has unveiled a number of schemes to help homeowners and tenants. This seems to be the focus of its activities, rather than stimulating the market through reducing stamp duty, for example.

Nick Raynsford, Labour's housing spokesman and former head of Shelter which campaigns for the homeless, promised last year to sweep away many of the legal restrictions which make it difficult to force landlords to sell freeholds to tenants. Labour would defend leaseholders against the sort of estate management schemes that have caused controversy in Kensington, Belgravia and Mayfair.

Mr Raynsford has also resolved to help an estimated 1.7 million mortgage-holders facing repayment difficulties and to introduce better safeguards to entice potential first-time buyers. He would encourage changes in the type of mortgages so that repayments could be more flexible, as well as more effective private mortgage insurance packages to compensate for the abolition of the income support safety net for new borrowers.

More generally, Labour has said it would aim to reduce bed-and-breakfast accommodation by freeing up an estimated £4.5 billion of capital receipts to encourage local councils, in partnership with industry, to regenerate urban wastelands. Such action could really help the market, Mr Barty says.

Not all of Labour's proposals have passed without alarm. It is likely that redirecting capital receipts would undermine the ability of some wealthier boroughs and shires to keep council tax bills down. Mr Raynsford has admitted that there might have to be a "modest" rise in tax in some areas.

Labour might change the rules on foreign ownership. Overseas investors could lose the exemption on paying tax in Britain on their worldwide income.

"Obviously," Ms Vestey says, "if either party showed an interest in penalising overseas owners of UK property for investing in this country then this would undoubtedly have a detrimental effect, dealing a major blow to the recently regained confidence in the market."

Labour is opposed to the trend towards "private" housing developments, in which the roads are closed to the general public and security is a top priority. Instead, they wish for mixed private and public sector developments.

Whatever Labour's housing and economic policies, governments can influence housing markets only up to a point. Ms Barnes says: "Governments might like to think that they control housing markets, and yes, a specific policy such as Nigel Lawson's decision to abolish double Miras in 1988 can have a great impact, but in general markets are overwhelmingly decided by factors other than government policy. Supply and demand will determine the market whatever the colour of the party in power."

Demand has been building steadily in the market for the past seven years. There is pressure from the number of new households needed. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has said that Britain will need an extra 4.4 million houses over the next 20 years. Pressure is building too from the lack of the right type of property in the right place and of the right quality. That alone will ensure a healthy housing market in the next few years, but that, as they say, is another story.



Guernsey: Fort Saumarez, on the west coast of the island, has three acres of gardens and terraces and direct access to the beach and jetty. It is on sale for £690,000



Ireland: the minstrel's gallery in the banqueting hall at Ballea Castle, near Cork

Havens from rising taxes

THERE is no shortage of expensive properties for wealthy people worried about possible political change. Conal Walsh writes.

In Guernsey, Knight Frank is asking £690,000 for Fort Saumarez, a property of historical interest on the west coast of the island. It adjoins the Martello Tower (built during the Napoleonic wars) and is fortified with gun emplacements set into the headland. The house has three reception rooms, two bedrooms, an annex with a further four bedrooms, and three acres of gardens and terraces, with direct access to the beach and jetty.

Mainland buyers are restricted to buying homes on Guernsey's "open market", where prices can be double those on the "local market" from which islanders buy. But there is nothing on Guernsey to compare with the £10 million assets required to qualify for residence on Jersey. And Guernsey offers the same tax breaks: a 20 per cent rate on taxable incomes, and no VAT, capital gains tax, death duties or inheritance tax.

And remember, it was Guernsey, not Jersey, that Victor Hugo called his *lieu bienheureux*: low unemployment, low crime rates, a sunnier climate than the

mainland... small wonder the island acts as a magnet for those who can afford it. St Peter Port's marinas typically play host to 10,000 foreign yachts a year.

More famous as a haven for the international jet set is Monaco. The tiny principality on the Côte d'Azur will not tax private incomes and supplies its "exiles" with an array of lawyers, bankers and accountants.

Hampshire is selling the master flat of 21 Avenue Princesse Grace, which overlooks the beaches of Monte Carlo. Two reception rooms, four bedrooms, a large dining room, is yours for £150 million (£6 million).

Ballea Castle in County Cork is rather a different proposition. Those who made their fortune in the entertainment industries might like to ask if the Irish authorities would classify them as "artists" — if so, they will not be taxed on their artistic earnings.

The asking price for the medieval castle is £1 million, which includes baronial and banqueting halls, drawing room, dining room, utility room, study, chapel, a guest wing, ambassador suite and five double bedrooms, stables, gardens and 50 acres of land. The castle is ten miles from Cork city.

● Contacts: Knight Frank 0171-639 8171, Hampton's 0171-824 8822.

A Georgian folly in Somerset is looking forward to better days

A folly in what was once one of England's finest Georgian landscape gardens is up for auction.

The Bailiff's House at Patcombe, Somerset, was identified by Gervase Jackson-Stops as the Temple of Pan in an article in *Country Life* in February 1989. The folly was designed in 1771 by the architect John Johnson for the Halswell House estate. The small pink-brick classical temple in the Quantock Hills is fronted with a curved stone portico of Doric columns. With a guide price of £50,000, the temple is being sold with planning permission to be converted into a house.

The folly is in an "absolutely terrible state", says Peter Beacham, an English Heritage inspector of historic buildings. It is a gloomy sight. The roof has caved in, the windows stand empty of glass and frame, and ivy overruns the building. Farm outbuildings are huddled against the back of the temple, and overgrown grass surrounds the portico.

The estate is owned by a local farmer as part of Patcombe Farm. Even after pressure from Somerset County Council, he was unable to restore the building, so he and the council came to a compromise.

Temple of Pan seeks a careful owner

The temple will be offered for sale with planning permission to build a large extension, to provide a home large enough to interest prospective buyers. The planning permission allows only for strictly limited development, which should involve restoring the folly.

The Temple of Pan was one of the last of a series of 11 follies added to the Halswell estate in the second half of the 18th century. It was part of Sir Charles Kemys-Tynte's transformation of his family estate. Where there had been formal gardens, he created a landscaped Georgian pleasure garden and park.

The estate has been split up since Lord Wharton, Kemys-Tynte's last male descendant, sold Halswell at the end of the Second World War. The grounds housing the Temple

of Pan are no longer part of the estate. According to Hugh Stafford, of the Halswell Park Trust, the folly was almost certainly originally built to be inhabited, but has not been lived in since shortly after the First World War. Since then it has slowly deteriorated into the ruin it is today.

Pevsner called Halswell's main house, in the village of Cothurst, "the finest house of this date in Somerset". Restoring the house and estate from a state of dilapidation has become a popular cause. English Heritage, the Georgian Group and SAVE have all been involved.

The main house is presently owned by a Bristol businessman. According to Mr Beacham, it is in much better condition than it has been for many years. The older part, which dates from about 1536,

is let as flats, while Sir Halswell Tynte's 1689 North Range is standing empty.

The council would have preferred the Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust (SBPT) to have taken on the Temple of Pan. The Trust has already bought two of the estate's follies. The Temple of Harmony, designed by Thomas Prowse with an interior by Robert Adam, has been restored and opened to the public. The SBPT plans to do the same with the Robin Hood House, and has created the Halswell Park Trust to maintain both follies. But the two local trusts have limited funds and are concentrating their efforts on purchasing the whole of Mill Wood, the old pleasure garden in which the Temple of Harmony stands.

But the Halswell Park Trust is not happy with the planned extension to the Temple of Pan. Hugh Stafford, the trust's secretary, says it is "just about acceptable as a compromise, but only just". Mr Beacham points out that historically there was another building attached to the rear of the temple. But Mr Stafford counters that its absence today proves that it was poorly constructed and therefore not part of the original structure.

He hopes that the property will not reach its reserve at auction. He says that the Landmark Trust has expressed interest in the temple, but is unable to pay the sort of price it could fetch at auction. Landmark, which restores historic buildings as holiday homes, has a policy of not "hindering" buildings, and would be unlikely to extend the temple.

Mr Stafford thinks there is a good chance no one will want to tackle the expensive development plans, but R B Taylor and Sons of Yeovil, the estate agents, say they have already had "a lot of inquiries".

JUSTIN HUGGLER

● The Temple of Pan at Patcombe Farm, Broomfield, near Taunton goes on sale by public auction at The Wolbur Tree Hotel, North Petherton, on Wednesday, September 18 at 7.30pm. Guide price £50,000-£70,000

Slow sellers in the bargain bin

Justin Huggler on how agents may be open to offers for houses unsold after more than a year

There are houses which the estate agents, amazingly, keep quiet about. Their owners, in theory, should succumb to a little tough bargaining. For in a new occasional column, *The Times* is highlighting property which has been on the market for at least a year. Some of the houses have fallen in price. Even those houses untouched by price cuts may yield to a go offer.

The 15th-century Netherby Hall, near Carlisle, was originally a fortified tower house, built to withstand border attacks. It appears in Sir Walter Scott's *Marmion*, and boasts a dramatic three-storey entrance tower with a carved stone knight and coat of arms.

The house was put on the market in late 1993 through the agent Jackson-Stops and Staff. After prolonged negotiations a sale was agreed in November last year, only to fall through. The agent relaunched the property in June, but still at the original guide price of £850,000. The new incentive on offer is that planning permission is being sought to convert the hall into 15 flats.

Testcombe, in Chilbolton, Hampshire, has been available for a year. Though it has failed to sell, Knight Frank has not reduced the guide price of £1.8 million for the entire property. Instead, it is offering the choice of buying the whole estate or one of three lots.

The first comprises five acres. It includes the brick and exposed timber main house, the formal gardens and 600 yards of fishing on the Test. Knight Frank is asking £1.2 million. The second lot features Testcombe Cottage, a much smaller house. It covers a total of seven-and-a-half acres, and includes 545 yards of fishing on the Test and its tributaries. The price is £500,000.

The third lot is land with fishing rights. No building

stands on the one-and-a-half acres known as The Broad. It contains 225 yards of fishing and is available for £75,000-£100,000.

Bargain hunters would do better to head north of the Scottish border. Prices there have fallen dramatically on some unsold properties.

Meadow Bank House is a long-running non-seller whose price has been reduced. The elegant Georgian neoclassical mansion in Dumfries and Galloway stands tall and imposing in its own ten-acre park near the Solway Firth. The ten-bedroom house was available for three years without selling. Eighteen months ago the guide price fell from £230,000 to £200,000, through Savills. Meadow Bank is under offer.

But offers now often fall through, as Arabella House proves. Arabella, at Tain, in the Easter Ross, was built in the 17th century. Hugh Rose, who bought it in 1795, named



Netherby Hall, near Carlisle, is for sale at £850,000

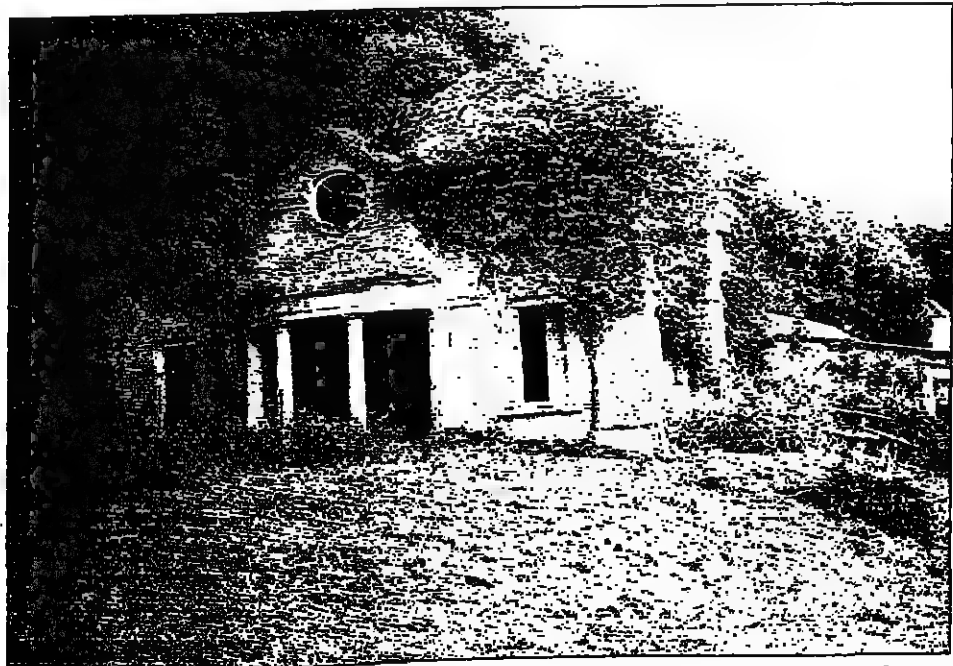
it after his young wife. She was subsequently murdered on a nearby beach by a rival lover. The place is for sale with a print of her portrait.

Jamie MacNaught, from Savills, describes Arabella as the prettiest house on his books. Red Virginia creepers cover the pink-washed house. A curved bay with battlements in the baronial style adorns one facade.

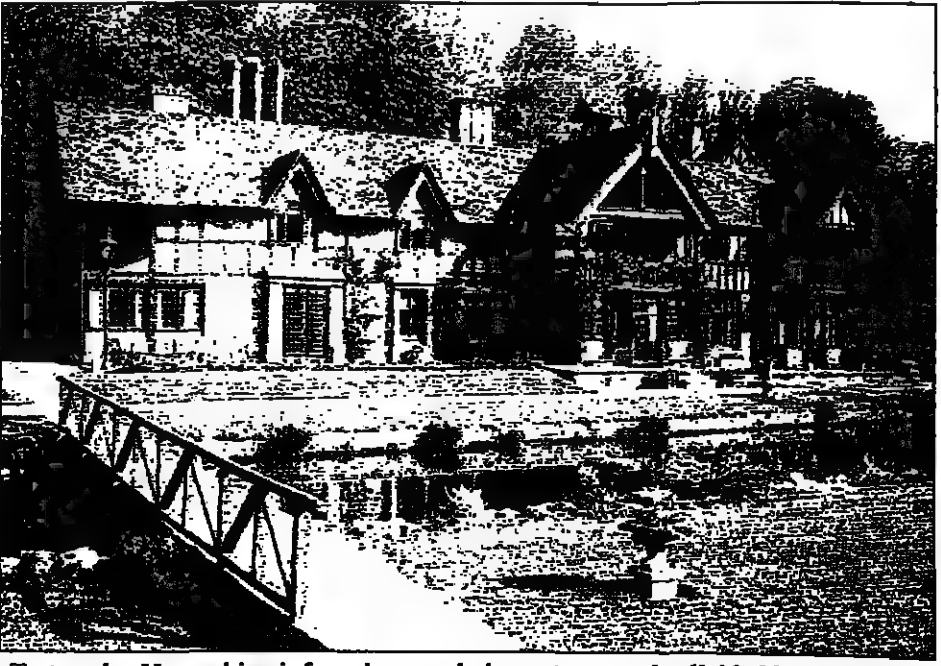
But Arabella has been on the market for four years.

Offers have been accepted three times, only for the buyer to pull out, on one occasion because of losses in the Lloyd's crash. In spite of its longevity in the property pages, the guide price has not been reduced, and is still £225,000.

● Buyers can contact Jackson-Stops and Staff about Netherby on 0171-589 4536; Knight Frank about Testcombe on 0171-639 8171 and Savills' Scottish office about Meadow Bank and Arabella on 0131-226 6961.



The Temple of Pan: the folly has planning permission to build a large extension



Testcombe, Hampshire, is for sale as a whole estate or can be divided into three lots

RACING: BAHHARE FACES STERN EXAMINATION OF CLASSIC CREDENTIALS IN CHAMPAGNE STAKES AT DONCASTER

Indiscreet plan promises absorbing contest

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE David Loder-trained Indiscreet, backed down to second favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas with Coral, is expected to cross swords with Bahhare, ante-post favourite for the same classic, in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster on September 13.

A meeting between the two colts would almost certainly identify the winter favourite for the 2,000 Guineas after Zamindar's eclipse at Deauville ten days ago. Zamindar had previously cornered the market, but his defeat prompted Coral to extend his odds to 14-1. That price has since been taken and the full-brother to Zafonic now shares second favouritism with Loder's juvenile.

Indiscreet broke the juvenile track record when making a winning debut at York last week. "He has taken that race well," Loder said yesterday, "and it is likely that the Champagne Stakes will be his next test. I thought it was a very impressive performance at York, given how little work he'd done and how immature he is."

The Newmarket trainer only elected to run Indiscreet after the colt had moved fluently in a steady workout six days earlier. Indiscreet is from the first crop of St Jovite, the Irish Derby and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes winner, from a stamina-laden female line. "The horse is bred to stay quite well," Loder said. "I expected him to find it tough over six furlongs at York against some well-regarded

Nap: ROMAN REEL
(2.50 Brighton)
Next best: **NAISSANT**
(3.10 Carlisle)

Angus Gold, racing manager to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who owns Bahhare, said the John Dunlop-trained colt would head for the Champagne Stakes irrespective of the likely opposition. "Bahhare has enjoyed a short break but the Doncaster race is definitely the target for him," Gold said. "Indiscreet looked very impressive at York and I gather there were a lot of fancied horses in the race. From our point of view, we've got to find out how good our horse is sooner or later."

Gold added that the Sheikh, Dunlop and Willie Carson have until Friday to launch an

appeal against Bint Salsabil's disqualification from first place in the Prix de la Nonette at Deauville on Sunday.

Connections of Bint Shad-ayid, disqualified from second place, have ruled out an official protest but Dunlop and Carson are to examine film of the race before reaching a decision. The race was awarded to Luna Wells, who crossed the line in third place.

Luna Wells is trained by André Fabre, who plans to run Zamindar in the Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp on September 15. Fabre was critical of the slow pace dictated by Thierry Jarnet when Zamindar succumbed to Bahamian Bounty in the Prix Morry last time. Whatever the merits of Fabre's complaint, Loder should know where Indiscreet stands with Zamindar, a possible runner in the Dewhurst Stakes later in the season.

Loder also trains Bahamian Bounty, whose next target is the Middle Park Stakes over six furlongs at Newmarket in October. Another stablemate, Abou Zouz, winner of the Gimcrack Stakes last week, now heads for the Tattersalls Sales Stakes over seven furlongs at the same Newmarket meeting.

"One can question whether either colt will stay a mile on pedigree," Loder said, "but both are relaxed individuals who should give themselves every chance. I think seven furlongs is within Abou Zouz's compass so he should have no trouble with the distance of the Tattersalls race."



Bahhare, the 2,000 Guineas favourite, makes an impressive winning debut at the Newmarket July meeting

RUGBY LEAGUE

Poor clubs eager to cross the divide

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

GEOFFREY MOORHOUSE, in conclusion to his new edition of *A People's Game*, said that, in the new Super League era, there were still those in rugby league who remained as nervous as the horses before the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. At the end of the first summer season, that sense of trepidation refuses to go away.

Some smaller clubs wonder whether they will survive the barren winter. Others are resigned to merging, a process that met with uproar last year when it was being imposed on clubs. Financial necessity has forced the issue.

A mad scramble of cobbled-together outfits and, in the case of Keighley, one that is prepared to up sticks from Yorkshire to Lancashire and move in with Burnley Football Club, is banging at the Super League door. They know that, on the outside, they face financial exposure.

The divide between the haves in the Super League and have-nots in the first and second divisions, already stark in playing terms, can only widen. The 12 Super League clubs, plus South Wales, are, from next year, to form themselves into a semi-autonomous body. It will run on similar lines to the FA Premier League in football and handle sponsorship, merchandising and promotional activities.

Super League Ltd will operate independently of the other member clubs of the Rugby Football League, the professional governing body, which will have a significant share in the company. A breakaway is implicit, even though clubs insist that is not the case. Those in the Super League will, in future, get the lion's share of the £17.4 million annual payout from the five-year Super League television contract.

Those in the first and second divisions, which have received between £150,000 and £700,000 this year, will have their budgets cut under the proposal before the Rugby

Ripon

Clipping: 10-10-96

2.50 (5) 1. TRIBAL MISCHIEF (Darien Mottet, 13-2), 2. GUSTON (C. Fallon, 6-1), 3. NITTY NORMAN (A. Carroll, 9-2), 4. ALBA (1-4), 5. L. W. (1-4), 6. L. W. (1-4), 7. L. W. (1-4), 8. L. W. (1-4), 9. L. W. (1-4), 10. L. W. (1-4), 11. L. W. (1-4), 12. L. W. (1-4), 13. L. W. (1-4), 14. L. W. (1-4), 15. L. W. (1-4), 16. L. W. (1-4), 17. L. W. (1-4), 18. L. W. (1-4), 19. L. W. (1-4), 20. L. W. (1-4), 21. L. W. (1-4), 22. L. W. (1-4), 23. L. W. (1-4), 24. L. W. (1-4), 25. L. W. (1-4), 26. L. W. (1-4), 27. L. W. (1-4), 28. L. W. (1-4), 29. L. W. (1-4), 30. L. W. (1-4), 31. L. W. (1-4), 32. L. W. (1-4), 33. L. W. (1-4), 34. L. W. (1-4), 35. L. W. (1-4), 36. L. W. (1-4), 37. L. W. (1-4), 38. L. W. (1-4), 39. L. W. (1-4), 40. L. W. (1-4), 41. L. W. (1-4), 42. L. W. (1-4), 43. L. W. (1-4), 44. L. W. (1-4), 45. L. W. (1-4), 46. L. W. (1-4), 47. L. W. (1-4), 48. L. W. (1-4), 49. L. W. (1-4), 50. L. W. (1-4), 51. L. W. (1-4), 52. L. W. (1-4), 53. L. W. (1-4), 54. L. W. (1-4), 55. L. W. (1-4), 56. L. 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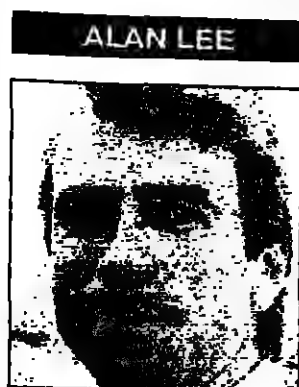
England malaise typified by Cork's decline

There was something symbolic about the way it ended. At 5pm on Monday, a long hop, one of innumerable from English hands, was flogged disdainfully for four and the Reader ball, subject of so much debate, vanished under the plastic covering on the Oval boundary. While every other player sprinted from the field ahead of invading hordes of Pakistani followers, Chris Lewis was left to ferret for the ball like a schoolboy sent to Coventry.

This was not how it was supposed to be. It did not accord with the midsummer doctrine of David Lloyd, who, mildly annoyed, said before the series began that England had been given insufficient credit for beating India. He also spoke warmly of the renaissance of Lewis. Another series win, he implied, was imminent.

Lloyd's optimism is endearing, but, after a full season as England coach, he may privately be appreciating how the job can turn the most buoyant of men into a tired old cynic. Lewis let him down, just as he has let down a succession of captains and coaches, but he was not alone. Lloyd was let down by a team that could not live up to his ideals. He was let down by English cricket.

If this appears a sweeping generalisation, it is intended to be. England performed modestly, erratically and largely joylessly, because this is how the claustrophobic domestic system decrees they will perform. If the counties, which frame and protect the structure, cannot appreciate how it



Cricket Correspondent

is draining the intensity from England's leading players, and will not listen to the committees and working parties that they so glibly authorise, perhaps they will take heed of the captain of Pakistan.

"You play far too much cricket," Wasim Akram said on Monday evening. "Your players know that. We talk about it on the circuit." This, please note, is delivered not by a man with no perception of the rhythms of English cricket, but by one who has spent seven years with Lancashire and intends returning to them next season.

Wasim's solution — "divide the county championship into two divisions and let sides play no more than nine or ten games" — is, sadly, unlikely to occur this side of the millennium.

"No human being can play 17 four-day games a year and

still bowl fast," he added with the certainty of one who knows. Anyone inclined to begin a riposte to this with a reference to Alec Bedser, Fred Trueman or anyone else from the age before one-day cricket, should think again. It was a different game, one in which fast bowlers were not expected to field with athleticism or to switch, bewilderingly, between the codes and limitations of modern cricket. That was then, this is now, and the two cannot be compared.

On Monday, Wasim and his friend, Michael Atherton, the captain of England, referred to Dominic Cork. "They say he's burnt out at 24," Wasim said with more sympathy than surprise. "You have to remember that Corky has played a tremendous amount of cricket in the past 18 months." Atherton said. You have to admit, also, that it is showing.

Inevitably, it was to Cork that England looked first for inspiration in this series. While, for reasons not fully explained, they continued to exclude Darren Gough and gave Andy Caddick only one Test, which brought him six wickets, Cork was the one proven match-winner available to them; but he did not once look capable of seriously influencing a game.

Now, quite properly, the selectors are prepared to think long-term by leaving him at home when the team flies to Zimbabwe in November. He looks a weary cricketer, his action not quite what it was and his approach inclined to a silliness that may kindly be excused by fatigue; but he is a treasure and, with consecutive

series against Australia, West Indies and South Africa starting next summer, he must be revived.

Cork's first ten Tests brought him 45 wickets at an average of 25. In six games this summer, he has taken 22 wickets at an average of 37. He even became a first-change bowler as England employed a different new-ball pairing in each of the three games against Pakistan.

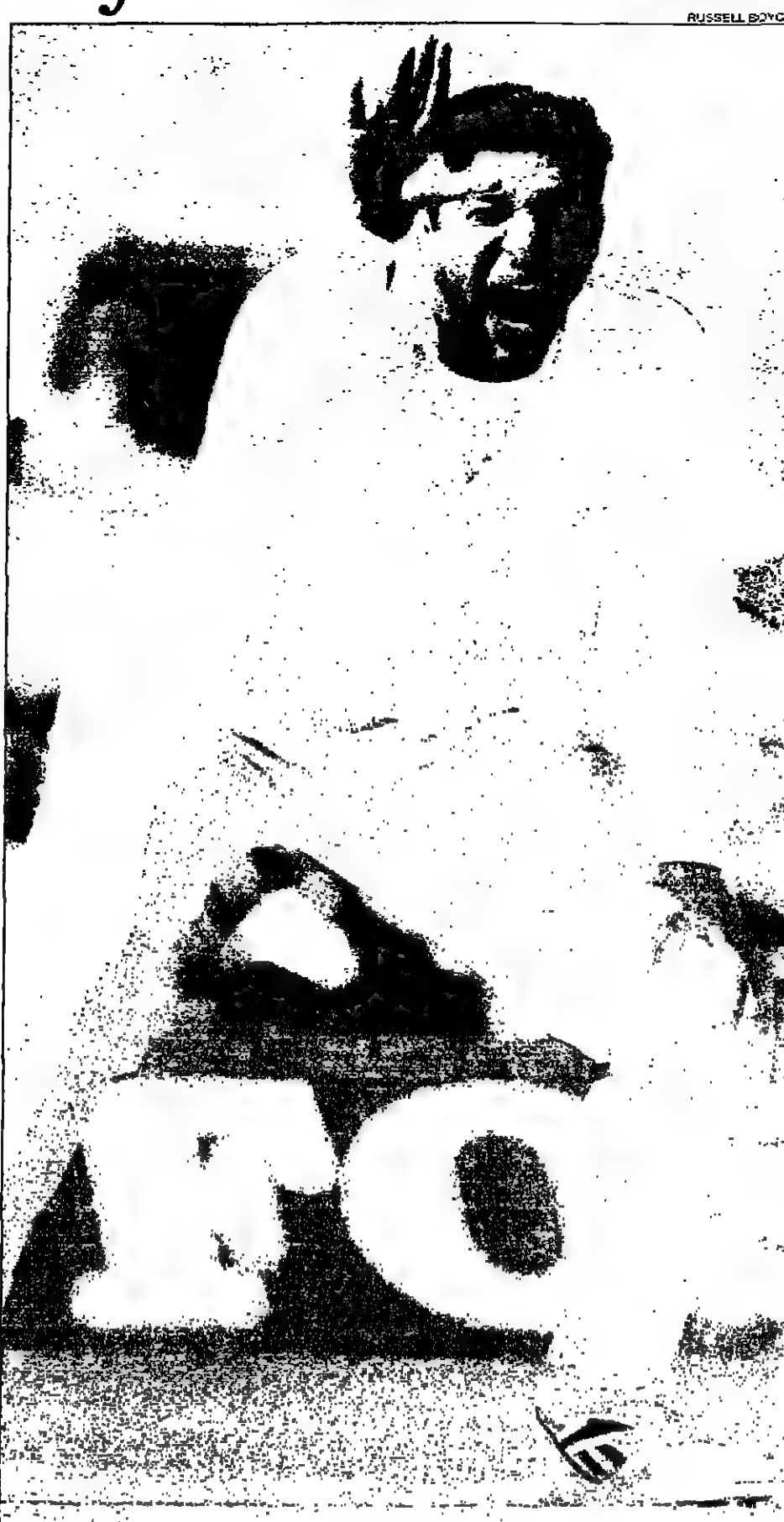
None of them looked the part, and surely Cork and Gough must eventually be reunited, feeding off each other as they did so briefly and promisingly last summer. Caddick, too, has a role. The selectors, however, are generally to be pitied, for to find an English attack capable of disturbing the best of international batsmen is a thankless task.

Hitting the stumps is not everything, but it certainly helps, once in a while, and, of all the statistics with which England's performance can be damned, the fact that they dismissed only four Pakistanis bowled, as against 18 totalled by the opposition, makes a stark contrast.

The reasonable theory that England might profit from Pakistan's traditional hot-headedness survived through the opening day of the first Test. England's best of the series. Then it was buried by a team united under Wasim and eager, indeed passionate, to prove itself once again.

They did so triumphantly and cordially. The way this Pakistan side conducted itself was a blessed relief after the petulance and indiscipline of the 1992 team, but the way they won was no different. In Wasim, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed, they possess three match-winning bowlers, more than any other Test team can presently boast. That, rather than by the ball-tampering so spuriously and disconcertingly alleged, was why they won in 1992, and it was why they won again.

To seek a silver lining within England's demise is inevitably to strain credulity. They have, at least, identified six batsmen of some pedigree, and must stick with them, although the manner of the collapse on Monday even made one wonder about this as a genuine gain. Probably, there will be no such thing until the words of Wasim, and so many others, are properly recognised and the welfare of England's international cricketers becomes a priority rather than a nuisance.



Wasim Akram, appealing at the Oval, offers a drastic solution for England's ills

SQUASH

Improving Cairns overcomes Harris

FROM COLIN MCQUELLAN IN HONG KONG

MARK CAIRNS pulled off the shock result of the opening session of the Hong Kong Open championship, defeating Del Harris, the No 6 seed and Super Series champion, 15-12, 15-6, 15-12 in 64 minutes.

Cairns just missed selection for the England squad that lifted the world team title last November, behind Harris and Mark Chaloner. He made the squad for the mixed-sex World Cup in May, but watched from the reserve bench as England were crushed in the final by Australia. "You could say last season was only good in parts," Cairns, 29, from Abingdon, said.

He might have drawn some added satisfaction from Chaloner's 65-minute, 15-11, 17-16 failure to survive a typically abrasive assault from Anthony Hill, from Australia, in which the victor drew a conduct warning for verbal abuse. It was Chaloner's narrow victory over Cairns in a US Open quarter-final last year that decided their competition for the last England place.

Cairns now meets Joseph Kneipp, of Australia, in the second round tomorrow while Hill goes to another potentially acrimonious clash with Mir Zaman Gul, the Pakistani with whom he was involved in a head-butting incident at the 1994 British Open and a physical encounter in the world team semi-finals.

Cairns, ironically, has improved through the summer by working with Edward Winter and Damon Brown, the physiologists who planned the strength training on which Chaloner based his development last season.

Harris, at 27, is on a competitive comeback after a five-month rest because of a lower back problem that developed while he was winning the world team title and the Super Series play-offs last season. The lack of practice showed, "I had nothing in my legs," he said. "I lost in the first round of the British Open in April and two successive first-round losses is not going to do much for my rankings."

Results, page 37

TEST AVERAGES

England										Pakistan									
Batting										Batting									
	M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	0/100	0/200		M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	0/100	0/200
A J Stewart	3	0	369	170	79.20	1	2	2/1	—	Mun Khan	3	0	158	105	79.00	1	3	3	—
J P Crawley	3	0	178	108	59.33	1	1	1	—	Ijaz Ahmed	3	1	344	141	68.80	1	3	1	—
N V Knight	3	0	101	113	33.66	1	1	1	—	Saim Malik	3	5	195	107	65.00	1	1	1	—
N Hussain	3	0	111	51	37.00	—	—	1	1	Inzamam-ul-Haq	3	3	320	148	64.00	1	1	1	—
M A Atherton	3	0	162	64	54.00	—	—	—	—	Saeed Anwar	3	0	382	176	90.33	1	1	1	—
G P Thorpe	3	0	159	71	53.00	—	—	—	—	Raees Latif	3	0	65	45	21.66	—	—	—	—
R C Russell	3	0	91	41	30.33	—	—	—	—	Aamir Sohail	3	3	77	45	25.66	—	—	—	—
D G Cork	3	1	90	25	30.00	—	—	—	—	Asif Mubeen	3	0	90	51	30.00	—	—	—	—
D G Cork	3	1	90	25	30.00	—	—	—	—	Wasim Akram	3	0	68	40	22.66	—	—	—	—
S J Brown	3	0	59	26	19.66	—	—	—	—	Shadab Kabir	3	0	87	35	29.00	—	—	—	—
R B Cott	3	0	11	6	3.66	—	—	—	—	Mushtaq Ahmed	3	1	44	20	14.66	—	—	—	—
A D Mullaly	3	0	11	6	3.66	—	—	—	—	Waqar Younis	3	1	11	7	3.66	—	—	—	—
C C Lewis	3	0	39	24	13.00	—	—	—	—	Abdur-Rahman	3	0	10	10	3.33	—	—	—	—
C C Lewis	3	0	39	24	13.00	—	—	—	—	Mohammad Aslam	3	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
G P Thorpe	3	0	13	4	4.33	—	—	—	—										
Bowling										Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	Best	5w	10w			O	M	R	W	Avg	Best	5w	10w	
M A Atherton	7	1	20	1	20.00	1/20	—	—		Mushtaq Ahmed	18	52	447	17	26.29	6/78	2	—	
A R Caddick	57	2	105	6	17.50	3/42	—	—		Waqar Younis	12	28	431	16	26.38	4/49	—	—	
D G Cork	131	23	454	19	23.90	3/15	—	—		Abdur-Rahman	48	6	173	3	29.00	3/87	—	—	
A D Mullaly	150	36	377	10	37.70	3/44	—	—		Mohammad Aslam	1	0	7	1	7.00	1/41	—	—	
G A Hick	13	2	42	1	21.00	1/28	—	—		Saim Malik	1	0	1	0	—	—	—	—	
R B Cott	47	10	125	2	62.50	1/16	—	—		Asif Mubeen	7	5	6	0	—	—	—	—	
S J Brown	33	4	138	2	69.00	1/40	—	—		Shadab Kabir	10	9	9	0	—	—	—	—	
M A Atherton	87	8	221	2	110.50	1/42	—	—		Aamir Sohail	11	3	24	0	—	—	—	—	
D G Cork	61	8	221	2	110.50	1/42	—	—											
C C Lewis	71	10	284	1	284.00	1/52	—	—											
G P Thorpe	13	4	19	0	—	—	—	—											
										■ denotes not out									
										□ Source: ICCOB/PA Cricket Record									

* denotes not out
Source: ICC/PA Cricket Record

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I missed a neat safety play on this hand, from the match between Great Britain and Belgium in the EU championships in April. In this match, I was declarer on the first six boards. What are the odds of that, if it is 25% on each board? Answer below.

Dealer East	Love all	IMP
♠ 7 ♥ K10863 ♦ A ♣ Q8563	♠ 8 ♥ 5 ♦ Q876542 ♣ AK42	♠ K432 ♥ QJ842 ♦ J109 ♣ J
♠ 7 ♥ K10863 ♦ A ♣ Q8563	♠ 8 ♥ 5 ♦ Q876542 ♣ AK42	♠ K432 ♥ QJ842 ♦ J109 ♣ J

W	N	E	S
2S (1)	3D	4H	4S
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: Six of Hearts

(i) Showing hearts and a minor suit.

As South, I won the heart in hand and ruffed my remaining heart with dummy's singleton trump. Now my problem was how to get off dummy to draw trumps. The danger was that the defence might be able to get ruffs in diamonds and clubs.

Thinking that it did not make much difference, I played the queen of diamonds. When West won he should have returned a club, that way, which ever minor I play allows one defender to ruff and give his partner a ruff in the West's continued hearts, and so I made an overtrick. The winning line is to play off the ace and king of clubs

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BIBLICAL JUBAL
a. The first harpist
b. Priest during Josiah's reign
c. Nephew of Ish-bosheth
ELIEZER
a. Minor 8th century BC prophet
b. Servant to Abraham
c. The witch at Endor

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Leko's revival

When Peter Leko, the Hungarian prodigy, became the world's youngest grandmaster at the age of 14 two years ago, many predicted a brilliant future for him. Unfortunately, his results failed to improve significantly after this early achievement and it seemed that he would not present a substantial challenge to the world elite.

However, in the recent Vienna tournament, Leko staged a partial revival, coming in half a point behind the joint winners and inflicting the following punishing defeat on one of them.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Peter Leko
Bank of Austria
Vienna, August 1996

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5

Diagram of final position

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5
♠	d4	c5	exd5	cxd5	d4	Nf6	Nc6	Bg5

a b c d e f g h

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Ribkin — Marschenko, Soviet Union, 1974. Black is in terrible trouble as his queen is watching from the wings while White's major pieces are bearing down on his exposed king. How did White continue?

Solution on page 38

Larkins offers main threat to Cheshire

BY SIMON WILDE

WHEN Bedfordshire met Cheshire in the final of the Minor Counties limited-overs trophy, in the competition's inaugural season of 1983, Wayne Larkins was at his roistering best as an opening batsman. Indeed, three weeks before Cheshire won that match by 36 runs, Larkins was, rather typically, scoring a century before lunch, and another between lunch and tea, for Northamptonshire in a county championship match at Cardiff.

One century from Larkins, 42, will probably be sufficient for Bedfordshire, for whom he now plays, to claim the MCC Trophy for the first time when the counties meet again today, this time at Lord's. Although Larkins, the former England opening batsman, has scored six championship centuries in his first season for his native county, he actually owes them some runs in one-day cricket. He was dismissed for single-figure scores in the quarter and semi-finals.

Cheshire, who were also victorious in 1987, have enjoyed a few lean years since, but performed impressively to beat Cumberland, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire on the way to the final. They are seeking a third victory to equal the record of Staffordshire, who won the competition three times in a row from 1991.

Though they do not possess a player with the match-winning potential of Larkins, Cheshire can call on the services of several former county professionals. They are captained by Ian Cockbain, once of Lancashire, their leading batsman is Mark Saxelby — who played alongside Larkins at his second county, Durham — and among their seam bowlers is Tony Murphy, formerly of Lancashire and Surrey.

Cockbain, a member of the side that won the trophy nine years ago, damaged an elbow last week, but has passed himself fit.

FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting		Qualification: Six completed innings							
		M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	
1	S Ganguly (India)	13	24	6	762	156	95.25	3	4
2	G P Thorpe (Surrey)	13	24	3	1444	185	72.50	6	6
3	K M Curran (Northants)	11	21	7	889	150	70.64	6	6
4	Saeed Anwar (Pakistan)	10	19	1	1324	219	69.80	—	—
5	H H Gibbs (South Africa)	9	14	1	867	163	66.29	—	—
6	Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan)	9	14	2	795	169	66.00	—	—
7	G A Gough (Essex)	13	22	0	1429	201	64.36	—	—
8	M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)	18	24	4	1297	214	64.85	—	—
9	S G Law (Essex)	13	22	1	1363	172	64.80	—	—
10	M G Bevan (Yorkshire)	12	22	3	1225	169	64.47	—	—
11	S R Tendulkar (India)	7	11	0	707	177	64.27	—	—
12	A J Hollister (Surrey)	13	19	8	866	167	62.83	—	—
13	S Lee (Somerset)	14	24	6	1145	178	62.61	—	—
14	T M Moody (Worcestershire)	15	26	3	1310	212	62.69	—	—
15	H Jones (Gloucestershire)	14	24	2	1275	202	59.55	—	—
16	N A Butcher (Surrey)	18	31	3	1429	186	56.16	—	—
17	W J Waugh (South Africa)	7	10	2	566	150	56.60	—	—
18	W S Nordall (Hampshire)	10	26	2	727	145	56.20	2	5

TENNIS: AUSTRIAN HAS LIGHT-HEARTED RESPONSE TO SEEDING CONTROVERSY

Muster passes first test of resolve

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN NEW YORK

THOMAS MUSTER is unofficially the king of clay courts, never mind his failure to retain his French Open title this year. He finds hard courts tough, physically on the knee that underwent major surgery, temperamental because of its different technical requirements, its smaller scope for recovery when behind. Yesterday he was buoyant in every sense.

Comprehensively defeating Javier Frana, of Argentina, 6-1, 7-6, 6-2 in the first round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows, Muster, 26, from Austria, who has controversially been demoted from second ranking to No 3 seed in favour of Michael Chang, poked fun at the United States Tennis Association (USTA) seeding committee. "I don't care, it's not a big deal," he said.

The issue was not about me and I've not taken much notice. I was more concerned that I didn't know day by day who I'd be playing, wondering if I'd wake up and find it was Tom Okker, or that Nastase had been seeded at No 2.

The case of Muster, who in February became the 13th player to be seeded No 1 in the world, illustrates the inconsistency of the attitude of Association of Tennis Professionals. Muster was criticised by other players, including Andre Agassi, for achieving his ranking through his concentration on clay court tournaments last year. This year, more by coincidence than by design, he has played ten clay court events and ten others (two grass, one carpet, seven hard). At Cincinnati, he reached his first American hard court semi-final since Key Biscayne in 1989, the occasion of his injury.

He had been able to have a practice week for hard courts, he said, and had been better able to calculate this year his surface switching. He was playing the US Open because "I think I should be here as a top player", but he admitted that he had to serve better than on clay, and that two consecutive weeks on cement was the maximum that his knee could withstand.

In further sarcasm directed at the USTA, he agreed that he was not favourite this fortnight because "I don't know how to play on this surface". It would take a hundred years, he felt, to become accustomed to the noise and interruptions. "Fortunately, there are only two weeks."

Until he lost last week to Daniel Nestor, of Canada, Muster had a long unbeaten record, approaching 20 matches, against fellow left-handers. Yesterday he was seldom in difficulty against Frana, especially once he had comfortably taken the tie-break for the second set. The first set went swiftly and, with two service breaks, Muster led 3-0 in the second, only then twice to surrender his own service to become 3-3. He



Seles, the No 2 seed, hits a typically-determined two-handed forehand drive during her victory over Miller in the first round of the US Open

was always in command of the tie-break, thanks to backhand errors by Frana, and clinched his first set point with a punching backhand pass.

In the third set, Frana saved four break points at 3-2 down four break points with a netted forehand volley and an overhit forehand drive. Muster rapidly ran through the next two games for the loss of a single point.

Anne Miller, 19, from Michigan, making her second appearance in the US Open, was no match for Muster. The No 2 seed, going down 6-0, 6-1. With an attractive, full-blooded drive on both flanks coming from a big back swing, Miller played some fine points, only to have the ball repeatedly returned with interest from a determined Seles. "I think she played

really well, very solidly" the amiable Miller said. "I had some chances, but missed them. If I played deep cross court, where others would have gone defensive, she just nailed another one at me. It was hard to get her to hit short. She is the best ground stroke player in the world."

Seles said that her shoulder, which has troubled her for some months, was neither

better nor worse. "I still don't have the power," she said, "and I need to hold my serve against the top players. I haven't been able to do that. [In the French Open and Wimbledon] I've had some rough ground slam first round matches this year, but today I felt I played really well. I had to play some pretty good points, because she hit the ball hard and flat."

Late on Monday, Jim Courier, the men's No 8 seed, was

obliged to withdraw through injury, while Agassi, the centre of the seeding controversy, made easy progress in his opening match under floodlights against Mauricio Hadad, of Colombia, in straight sets. "I thought I went out there and took care of business from start to finish and, based on that, I couldn't be more pleased," Agassi said. "If I can put together a couple of good weeks and finish strong and maybe win, then I can consider this a great year. I think there are a lot of nerves, but even more so when you haven't done well in the other grand slams."

Pete Sampras also had a

rapid passage into the second

round yesterday against Jimmy

Szymanski, of Venezuela, a

late replacement for the injured

Adrian Panatta.

RESULTS FROM FLUSHING MEADOWS

MEN

Singles: First round: S. Brugnera (Sp) bt K. Gossens (Bel) 6-2, 6-0, 7-6; M. Stich (Ger) bt T. Hase (Ger) 6-3, 1-6, 6-1, 7-5; F. Vicux (Fr) bt R. Delgado (Par) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6; K. Carlsen (Den) bt P. Ratter (Aust) 7-6, 6-3, 7-6; M. Gustafsson (Swe) bt C. Coccia (Sp) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; C. Moya (Sp) bt S. Humphries (US) 6-1, 6-7, 6-0, 6-4; J. Tarango (US) bt A. Rodenas (Ger) 6-4, 6-4, 6-1, 3-1, ret. D. Prinosil (Cov) bt P. Tramacchi (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 6-1; M. Washington (US) bt K. Alami (Mor) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; D. Ober (Ger) bt C. Adams (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; J. Stoltenberg (Aust) bt S. Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; A. Bessen (Fr) bt N. Pietrangeli (Aust) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; 3-1, ret. D. Prinosil (Cov) bt P. Tramacchi (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 6-1; M. Washington (US) bt K. Alami (Mor) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; D. Ober (Ger) bt C. Adams (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; J. Stoltenberg (Aust) bt S. Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; A. Bessen (Fr) bt N. Pietrangeli (Aust) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; 3-1, ret. D. Prinosil (Cov) bt P. Tramacchi (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 6-1; M. Washington (US) bt K. Alami (Mor) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; D. Ober (Ger) bt C. Adams (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; J. Stoltenberg (Aust) bt S. Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; A. Bessen (Fr) bt N. Pietrangeli (Aust) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; 3-1, ret. D. Prinosil (Cov) bt P. Tramacchi (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 6-1; M. Washington (US) bt K. Alami (Mor) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; D. Ober (Ger) bt C. Adams (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; J. Stoltenberg (Aust) bt S. Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; A. Bessen (Fr) bt N. Pietrangeli (Aust) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; 3-1, ret. D. Prinosil (Cov) bt P. Tramacchi (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 6-1; M. Washington (US) bt K. Alami (Mor) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; D. Ober (Ger) bt C. Adams (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; J. Stoltenberg (Aust) bt S. Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; A. Bessen (Fr) bt N. Pietrangeli (Aust) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; 3-1, ret. D. Prinosil (Cov) bt P. Tramacchi (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 6-1; M. Washington (US) bt K. 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Differing views on grime and punishment

A pair of undercover Brits are discussing an agent-turned-lawyer in a rather good Gavin Lyall thriller. "His clients must know he's ex-CIA, and like it. It suggests good Washington connections, as he said, and a certain fluidity of ethics, as he didn't. Clients do like winning". Is that why the name of George Graham is associated with every managerial vacancy that comes up in football? True, he has not actually

'Graham's crime was to be found out'

landed a job since he was sacked out of the game and banned for a year for the misdemeanour of taking a cut from transfer dealings, but, every time a manager gets a vote of confidence, the word goes out that Graham is in line for the job. Latest in the line is Manchester City, whose manager, Alan Ball, "resigned" on Monday. You would have thought that the words: "I thought, 'Jesus, what a Christmas present'", were emblazoned on football's heart.

Yet those words, uttered, according to himself, by Graham when he opened a parcel of lovely, free money, seem to serve as nothing less than a come-on. For, with the fluidity of

ethics goes Graham's record as manager of Arsenal, a winner of the League (twice), FA Cup, League Cup (twice) and European Cup Winners' Cup. Football clubs do like winning.

There are many that actually feel that Graham was punished harshly and that his biggest failing was the breaking of the Eleventh Commandment: *Thou shalt not be found out*. Indeed, it seems that the finding-out was far more of an embarrassment to

football than the crime. It seems that football cannot wait to forgive Graham, though, as I write, it has still fallen short of actually employing him. Perhaps he and

Manchester City deserve each other, after all, the club traditionally gives its manager all the job security of a snow shoveller.

Talking of Arsenal, crimes, misdemeanours and their forgiveness brings us to Tony Adams and Paul Merson. Adams, imprisoned for driving while drunk, returned to football to a hero's welcome; Merson, emerging from a marsh of alcohol, cocaine and betting, received help and support rather than punishment — and

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

returned to the game a better player. While there is self-interest involved in the rehabilitation of Adams and Merson, and any return of Graham, there is also forgiveness. For all that we might find the offences distasteful, forgiveness is never something to be scoffed at.

It makes a strange contrast to the vindictiveness with which transgressions are punished in cricket, the gentleman's game. Last week gave us

the banning of Ed Giddins, the county cricketer, who tested positive for cocaine. In stark contrast with the Merson affair, cricket offered neither help nor advice, still less forgiveness.

Giddins was banned for 19 months — effectively, a season — but it should be enough to make sure that he never plays cricket again. The response was hysterical, vindictive, out of proportion. Cricket should be able to do better than playing Pilate, and football actually does.

On, then, to the vexed figure of Chris Lewis. Nobody, it seems, can forgive a talented athlete with a troubled personality, and this was, perhaps, the definitive Lewis season: a wonderful start, an injury, a desperately disappointing finish. That is Lewis. A difficult man — and he turned up late to the game on Sunday, handing ammunition to all those seething with frustration at his poor showing.

So he was dropped for the one-day internationals as a disciplinary measure and, as an added touch of vindictiveness, England have asked Surrey, his county, not to let him play

for them, either. Someone with little to do has been thinking up ways of giving Lewis a really hard time. This is not punishment — this is revenge.

Neither Giddins nor Lewis is innocent of blame, still less a hero. They are both misfits and neither are people that understand. So they have been punished that go merely heavy-handed.

There are two morals to consider at the end of all this. The first is that, if you plan a career as an errand, or even as a non-conforming, athlete, make sure you play football. It is a more large-souled and tolerant game than cricket. Second, perhaps more important, remember that to err is human, to win divine. In sport, victory forgives almost everything.

'Treatment of Lewis is a trifle vicious'

his spots. They punish Lewis for their own naivety; that is why the punishment is a trifle vicious.

There are two morals to consider at the end of all this. The first is that, if you plan a career as an errand, or even as a non-conforming, athlete, make sure you play football. It is a more large-souled and tolerant game than cricket. Second, perhaps more important, remember that to err is human, to win divine. In sport, victory forgives almost everything.

GOLF: QUESTION MARK AGAINST SCOT AFTER FAILURES IN MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Montgomery's resilience goes on trial

JOHN HOPKINS



Golf Correspondent

FOR Colin Montgomery, the rest of the season starts now. At the British Masters, which begins at Collingtree Park today, Montgomery must start to put behind him woeful performances in successive major championships and demonstrate that he has the skill worthy of a man ranked No 2 in the world and the moral fibre to overcome difficulties such as he has hardly known in his life.

Francis Bacon wrote that "prosperity is not without many fears and distastes and adversity is not without comforts and hopes". For Montgomery, there has never been any shortage of fears and he has demonstrated his distaste at his own play, spectators and any number of other issues often enough — and sometimes too often, in fact. Quite what are the comforts and hopes to be experienced in adversity, he has yet to discover.

Since Montgomery, 33, turned professional in 1987, his career has rocketed so that this season he has the chance to match Peter Ossiehu's record of four successive wins in the European order of merit. However, after missing the cut in the Open and the US PGA, and now trailing a revitalised Ian Woosnam by £51,000 in the order of merit, the game is on for Montgomery in a way that it has never been before. He has to silence those who are whispering that he may yet be one of those players who, when judged by the highest standards, flatter only to deceive.

Three vignettes suggest that Montgomery still has to acquire the necessary measure



Montgomery, Europe's No 1 for the past three years, needs a strong finish to the season to make up for recent disappointments

of self assurance and dogged determination required by champions. After a victory in Germany, it was revealing of the extent of the parent-son relationship that the first telephone call that Montgomery made was not to his wife or his manager, but to James, his father. Parental influence is not often so great or so necessary in one who has passed 30.

The second vignette came at Hilton Head Island after the Masters last April. Montgomery, who was concluding a practice round as a private jet rose overhead, became quite animated when he saw to whom it belonged.

"That's Greg's plane," he said. "Look, you can see from the markings. That's incredible." There is no doubt that no other player of similar status would have accorded a rival such a degree of admiration.

Can Montgomery really think himself the equal, or better yet,

the superior, of a man about whom he displays such wide-eyed, almost childish enthusiasm?

By the same token, it was revealing that week to hear the way that Montgomery openly admitted that he had been intimidated on a golf course by Nick Faldo. This was an admission one would never hear Severiano Ballesteros

make or, for that matter, Greg Norman, despite the evidence from that last round at Augusta.

Montgomery competed in the pro-am yesterday, saying that he felt that he had been away since the last round of the Scottish Open in mid-July, a neat reference to his poor play in the two major champi-

onships since. The shadow of his father's illness, which caused him to withdraw from the tournament in Germany last week, hung over him.

"I don't see anything different about Colin now," Alastair McLean, who has caddied for Montgomery since 1991, said. "He still hits the ball at the flag. He is as straight as ever, the straightest in the world."

After returning from Valhalla, Kentucky, the venue of the US PGA earlier in the month, Montgomery abandoned a 20-year association with Bill Ferguson, the former professional at Ilkley who has taught him all his life.

"Colin's having a wee rest from Bill," McLean said. "Bill's not complicated. He keeps it simple, but Colin just wants to concentrate on hitting the ball until the end of the year."

It was also noticeable that, among Montgomery's small

gallery yesterday was Harold Swash, the self-proclaimed putting doctor.

As accurate from tee to green as any player in the world, Montgomery has lost some of the accuracy on the greens that was once a feature of his play.

He would not go so far as to seek the help of an eye specialist, however, as other leading players have done. "Och," Montgomery said. "You can worry about these things too much."

Adversity drove Ben Hogan on after his father had committed suicide when he was eight. A desire to right many of the world's wrongs was what made Ballesteros want to conquer the world of golf.

As he faces up to adversity, we shall see what Colin Stuart Montgomery is made of. It is going to be very interesting watching this man, once a glided youth if ever there was one, over the coming months.

Ballesteros offers a lift to Olazábal

BY MEL WEBB

THE halt and lame José María Olazábal was offered a Ryder Cup lifeline yesterday by the man who was once a hero, then became a mentor and is now a staunch friend: 20 minutes later along came Europe's No 1 golfer and cleaved through it with one mighty blow.

Olazábal, out of action for more than a year with rheumatoid arthritis in his feet, has improved since discovering that the condition had been exacerbated by a number of allergies, but has still not made a tournament appearance this season.

As Ryder Cup captain, Severiano Ballesteros has a vested interest in Olazábal playing in the 1997 match at Valderrama; it is natural for him to want a man who, when fit and in form, is a match for anybody. Even more pertinent, however, is the fact that Ballesteros has not yet written off the prospect of playing in the match himself and, if he does, he will want Olazábal, with whom he forms one of the most formidable

partnerships in Ryder Cup history, to be at his side.

So Ballesteros was not being entirely altruistic yesterday when he endorsed a suggestion at Collingtree Park, where the One 2 One British Masters, the first tournament in the qualifying period for the team, starts today, that Olazábal should be allowed to play in tournaments using a buggy while his recuperation continues.

Ballesteros made it seem an entirely sensible suggestion. "Maybe to start with he could play with a buggy, and then he may feel better, and he will end up walking," he said. "I certainly don't have anything against that, although the rules say you can't. I would really like José in the team."

As notions go, it was a remarkably shortlived one, for it was not long before Colin Montgomery, who, when asked for his opinion on the suggestion, gave it short

shrill. "Never," he said. "I don't think we can start getting into giving people dispensations. I've got thoughts for José María, but we have to have rules for everybody, not just one."

"I do think, though, that if he comes back in the middle of next year, is obviously playing well but has not got enough tournaments to qualify, there should be the flexibility for Seve to pick him, and it just isn't there. We don't have the strength in depth that they have, and we can't afford to be without any of our best players."

It almost goes without saying that Montgomery will be one of the favourites for this tournament, which is being defeated by Sam Torrance. Ian Woosnam, meanwhile, attempts to consolidate his top position in the money-list — he leads Montgomery by £50,000. He and the rest of the field in the £650,000 tournament will be faced by Collingtree greens that have been painted green which, when mixed with the sand on them, has turned them blue. Confusing, isn't it?



Woosnam practises yesterday at Collingtree Park

RADIO CHOICE

Toy ducks: a current issue

The Deep Season: Time and Tide. Radio 4, 8.30pm.

There is a load of old rubbish in Dylan Winter's inquiry. It could not be otherwise because it is about marine garbology, which is a more upmarket way of saying flotsam and jetsam. An army of beachcombers send details of their findings — everything from ice-cream gloves to snowmobile engine oil bottles — to the oceanographers. They, in turn, chart the changes in ocean currents and draw up maps, the importance of which escapes me for the moment. What I did understand is that, some time around the year 2003, we can expect our shores to be littered with thousands of plastic bathtub toys: yellow ducks, red beavers, green frogs and hedgehogs that squeak when pressed.

Tales from the Wildside. Radio 4, 8.00pm.

Fergus Keeling's interviews with three wildlife experts carry a secondary title, *Mud Lovers*. Projected on your mind's eye were pictures of hippos wallowing in Flanders and Swann's glorious mud. Keeling's guests say nothing about enjoying the sloppy brown stuff. The only reference to mud at all comes when an ornithologist talks about digging up estuary mudflats to find out what kind of bird food they contain. His wildlife colleagues are a whale specialist and a gorilla-watcher. The latter provides an antidote to Dian Fossey's romantic view of primates in *Gorillas in the Mist*. He carries away their faeces for examination.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 8.00 Simon Mayo 1.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from Morecambe Arena 12.30pm Lisa (Anson) 3.00 Clive Warren 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Festival Lounge, with Johnny Vaughan broadcasting from the Edinburgh Festival 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Clare Sturgess 4.00 Charlie Jordan	All times in BST. News on the hour 6.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Megamix 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Pop Science 9.15 Concert Hall 10.15 Bush 10.15 Andy Kershaw 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.30pm Thirty-Minute Drama 1.30 Composer of the Month 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Megamix 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Sports View 6.30 News 6.30 Pop Science 6.51 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack 9.35 Press 10.05 World Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian (On Screen) 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Science View 12.15 Country Style 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Helen Sharman 7.00 Rapp McTel 8.00 The Hidden Treasures 8.30 Folk in the Footlights 9.05 Frank Hennessey's Wales 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden, incl. Pause for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester	4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Classic Newsnight, with Jane Markham 8.30 Sonatas, Bach (Cello Sonata No 1 in G major) 7.00 Gardening Forum (i) 8.00 Evening Concert, The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Richard Strauss (Der Rosenkavalier Suite); Mozart (Symphony No 31 in D), Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in F minor); Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor) 10.00 Michael Mappin, and, at 11.30 Nocturne 1.00am Neil Cooper
RADIO 5 LIVE	VIRGIN RADIO
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, with Dana Madill, incl. 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl. 12.35pm Moneycheck 3.05 Race on Five, incl. 2.35 , 3.10 and 3.45 Racing from York 4.00 Nationwide, incl. at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl. at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night Coverage of tonight's matches 10.05 News Talk 10.35 Radio 5 Live at the Fringe, with Janet Forth 11.00 Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 12.05am After Hours, with John Diamond 2.05 Up All Night, Rhod Sharp reports from the Democratic Convention in Chicago	6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Pandit Lee Rose
TALK RADIO	RADIO 3
6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Adrian Raftern 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins	6.00am On Air, Presented by Penny Gore, includes Saint-Saëns (Carnival of the Animals); Grieg (Overture: In Autumn); Liszt (Madama Tulpia, plectra); Ochocki, mania mia, cagli dorati; Debussy, orch Baiser (Printemps); Rebelle (Lauda Jerusalem); Michael Haydn (Symphony in B flat, Pt 9)
RADIO 4	
6.00am On Air, Presented by Penny Gore, includes Saint-Saëns (Carnival of the Animals); Grieg (Overture: In Autumn); Liszt (Madama Tulpia, plectra); Ochocki, mania mia, cagli dorati; Debussy, orch Baiser (Printemps); Rebelle (Lauda Jerusalem); Michael Haydn (Symphony in B flat, Pt 9)	5.15 In Tune, Presented by Linda Ormiston, includes Rameau (Les Fêtes d'Hebe, excerpt) 6.00 Edinburgh International Festival, Live from St. Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville, Lindsay Quartet, in F minor, Op 55 No 2, Razzo; in B flat Op 55 No 3 (3/2) 7.00 In Tune Part 2, includes Gluck (Iphigenia on Tauride, excerpt) 7.30 BBC Proms 1996, Live from the Albert Hall in London: Raskull, piano, Berlin Philharmonic, under Claudio Abbado, Brahms (Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor) 8.30 The Berlin Philharmonic and the New Berlin 8.40 Proms Part 2 Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor) 10.00 Voices, Stephen Vayns introduces songs that have inspired him over the years includes performances by Kim Borg, bass, Wilfred Brown, tenor, John Stacey, guitar, baritone, and Jeanette Baker, mezzo, includes works by Mussorgsky, Firt, Stravinsky and Elgar 10.45 Sleeping Beauty, Christopher Cook presents a critical history of British ballet with contributions from Dame Ninette de Valois, Sir Anthony Dowell, David Bintley, Jonathan Burrows, Richard Alston and Pamela May 11.30 Composer of the Week: Berg (i) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Steward 1.00 Through the Night, with David Cornel

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

JUBAL
(a) He was the first harpist and organist, the ancestor of those who make music and musical instruments. Son of Lamech by his first wife, Adah. Brother of Jabel. Genesis, 4: "Adah gave birth to Jubal. His brother's name was Jubal."
ELIEZER
(b) The servant sent by Abraham to find a kinswoman to be the wife of his son, Isaac. Eliezer found Rebecca by waiting at a well for a girl to offer him a drink. Eliezer was Abraham's longest-serving servant and was in charge of all Abraham's possessions.
ICHABOD
(c) He was the grandson of Eli and his mother was the wife of Eli's unworthy son, Phinehas. His name means "the glory has departed". He was called this because of the capture by the Philistines of the ark of the covenant in Siloh. When he was born and his mother realised that he was a boy, she refused to look at him. Nothing more is known about him. Acts.

UZ AND BUZ
(d) These were Abraham's nephews, two of the eight children of Abraham's brother, Nahor. Genesis, 22: "Mileah has borne sons to your brother Nahor: Uz his firstborn, then his brother Buz."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Re7? Rxe7 (if 1... Rb7? 2. Rxd7+ Rxf7? 3. Qa8+ wins the black queen); 2. Qd6+ Kd8; 3. Re1+ Kb7; 4. Qc6 mate.

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Handwritten signature: J. P. Jones

Such deadly earnest is not life-enhancing

I only read it afterwards, but apparently the makers of last night's American death penalty film *Procedure 769* (Channel 4's *True Stories*) spent two years tracing and persuading all the execution witnesses who appeared in their programme. Well, what a drag. After all that effort, you see, there was no chance they would let us off with a 40-minute snappy sort of film, employing such miraculous tools of the narrative business as reporting, editing, moving along smartly, or cutting to the chase.

No, this was a serious film that defied such tacky conventions. "Capital punishment is an issue which deserves a bit of respect," it said implicitly. Or possibly it was just a case of getting their money's worth out of those elusive witnesses. Either way, it took a very high-handed attitude to the time of busy, tired viewers who might be desperate to pull on those fluffy

jim-jams and hit the hay. Because after 90 minutes devoted to the case of San Quentin's Robert A. Harris (the first person executed in California in 25 years), *Procedure 769* had managed to tell us the bare minimum about his personality or his crime. The laughing killer, he was dubbed by the makers, because he swaggered and smiled for cameras. That people in Britain were bored to death by this programme may make him laugh and swagger yet beyond the grave.

Procedure 769 didn't mean to be boring; it meant to be deep. Its title was clearly intended to draw attention to the banality of evil: its method of concentrating purely on the people who watched a man die was supposed to bring it all home. But it was oddly unmoving, perhaps because each of these witnesses — a reporter, a politician, victims' families, friends of the condemned — spoke too much

to have any impact. Still, by the time the grunting gas-chamber hour finally arrived, you certainly knew enough about each of the witnesses to judge their testimony for yourself. Linda, the white-blond, vengeful sister of a Harris murder victim, ground her axe visibly, with sparks. "He looked like he knew he was finally going to meet Satan," she reported, grinning maliciously to the last. "Nobody else picked this up!" He struggled a little, she conceded, remembering his dead throats, "but not enough for me."

Making it snappy was not an imperative much in evidence last night. I found, just as the average human starts to get impatient after 17 seconds waiting for a lift (yes, 17 seconds), so we have rigorous internal clocks for films and telly which suddenly announce "Pings! Your time is up!". Two-thirds of the

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

way through Clive James' *Postcard from Hong Kong* (ITV), and out come those jim-jams willingly. When Clive James' "Postcards" series was on BBC, was it an hour long? On ITV, where the length is either 30 minutes or 60, all subjects must be either stretched on a rack or lopped off at the knee. In fact I would invoke that Greek bloke with his famous bed (the excellently named *Pro-*

crustes, who chopped and stretched his guests to fit if it wouldn't remind me of jim-jams all over again.

Having said all that, the postcard from Hong Kong was one of the best postcards James has sent us in a while, perhaps because he clearly adored the place, and cared what happened to it. Will China love it too, when they take over next year? Or will they (as he brutally pictured the future for Chris Patten) turn it into Tibet? As he inhaled the heady scent of money on every street corner, you could see how much the bulldozer option would disturb him personally. Between gorgeous night shots of the glittering city, the wisecracks flowed, the girl noticeably expanded, the Armani set dazzled him with their bank balances, and gold crockery glinted in the sunsets. However much he pretends to be a voiceover not to be impressed by rich people inside it was an Aztec

crust, his behaviour with them says rub-my-tummy from beginning to end. If money could really talk, Clive James would take it out to dinner, no question. He would even make it look good by cracking up at its witticisms.

So he visited Kowloon, the race track, the New Territories, and Patrick Lichfield photographing bathing beauties on a skyscraper roof. But street level brought out the best in him, inevitably. "Ah, dried beef, barbecued, he mused in voice-over, while examining the contents of a big sack. "I must try them some time. Perhaps after an atomic war." Perusing the seafood on offer at a Kowloon chow stand, he was impressed by its freshness. "Any fresher," he said, "and you'd have to fight it for your life."

Slapsack was kept to a modest minimum on this occasion. For some reason the "postcard" series

always demands W.C. Fields interludes, during which Clive feels compelled to demonstrate his sense of humour by acting the patsy and falling over. He is not without talent in this area. Either in Bombay, dressed as a Bollywood extra, he executed one of the funniest surprised-by-death scenes I have ever seen. However, last night he enacted a faux-naïf sequence in a cocktail bar which was as broad as it was long, in the worst sense of both.

Finally, neither broad, long, deep or indeed demonstrating any dimensions whatever, was the baffling return of the George Cole vehicle *My Good Friend* (ITV), a flat, inert sitcom which makes two hours waiting for the gas chamber seem quite lively by comparison. *My Good Friend* emanates from the same talent as *Man Behaving Badly* and *As Time Goes By*. It just goes to show, doesn't it? You can't trust anybody.

6.00am Business Breakfast (29138)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (50409)
New Museum in South Kensington (223751)

9.20 Do You Want a Smack? (7104312)
9.45 FILM: *Yentl* (1983) Directed, produced, co-written by and starring Barbra Streisand. In 1904 a young Pole disguises herself as a boy in order to get an education in the male-dominated Jewish community. With Mandy Patinkin, Amy Irving (84932138)

12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (1221480)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (491883)
12.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (6236886)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (53596)
1.30 Regional News and weather (4251393)
1.40 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (8) (827461) 3.00 *Where's the Jack?* (7342577) 3.25 Penny Crayon (1) (1313312)

3.30 Arts in Your Pants (1) (s) (7435206)
3.50 The Family Ness (1) (3995593) 3.55 ChuckleVision (1) (s) (7447041) 4.15 Run the Risk (1) (Ceefax) (2363428)
4.35 Cartoon Critters (1) (Ceefax) (1873680) 4.00 Newsworld (Ceefax) (1530931) 5.10 Byker Grove (1) (Ceefax) (4949461)

5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (516364)
6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (119)
6.30 Regional News and weather (709)
6.50 Small Talk. Presented by Ronnie Corbett (1) (Ceefax) (2515)

7.30 Mastermind. From Parth City Hall (s) (Ceefax) (583)
8.00 Only Fools and Horses: The Unlucky Winner Is... Del Boy enters one of Rodney's paintings in a competition which wins a week's holiday in Majorca for three people. But when Del, Rodney and his girlfriend Cassandra arrive at the resort, Rodney realises there is a slight catch to Del's free holiday plans (1) (Ceefax) (208408)

8.50 Points of View (Ceefax) (258732)
9.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (1480)
9.30 The Thin Blue Line. Fowler's strategy for the pub quiz is sabotaged from within when Di Grim tells his star player, WPC Habb, that her feminine wiles are needed to bait a trap. With Rowan Atkinson (1) (Ceefax) (51041)

10.00 QED: How to Be Happy (Ceefax) (437119)
10.40 BBC Proms 1996. James Naughtie introduces two Mozart piano concertos, No 19 in F and No 22 in E flat, played by Andras Schiff with the English Chamber Orchestra under George Malcolm (1) (4849403)

11.50 The Hollywood Collection (898751)
12.40am The Vanishing Partridge. Following a conservation project which looks into the decline in the numbers of grey partridges (1) (2881097)
1.00 The Road to the White House 1996: The Democratic Party Convention (758829)
4.00 Weather (6400542)

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8.00 Wildlife on Two. The true life story of chimpanzees as they go about their daily routines in their forest home (1) (Ceefax) (s) (6577)
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Maine Road chairman fights for survival in wake of Ball's departure

Struggling City turn to Graham



Glamorgan sign up Waqar on two-year contract

Surrey are expected to announce today that they will field Chris Lewis in their championship match against Warwickshire, which starts tomorrow, despite a request to omit him after England's disciplinary action against the player. The club yesterday released David Ward, while Jamie Hall has been released by Sussex.

Liam Boham, 19, the son of Ian, the former England all-rounder, could make his debut for Hampshire in their match against Middlesex at Portsmouth today. Tim Trott, the Hampshire director of coaching, said: "There is a fair chance Liam will play. He has made good progress in the second XI and we have every confidence in him."

They paid the price of living in shadow of Old Trafford

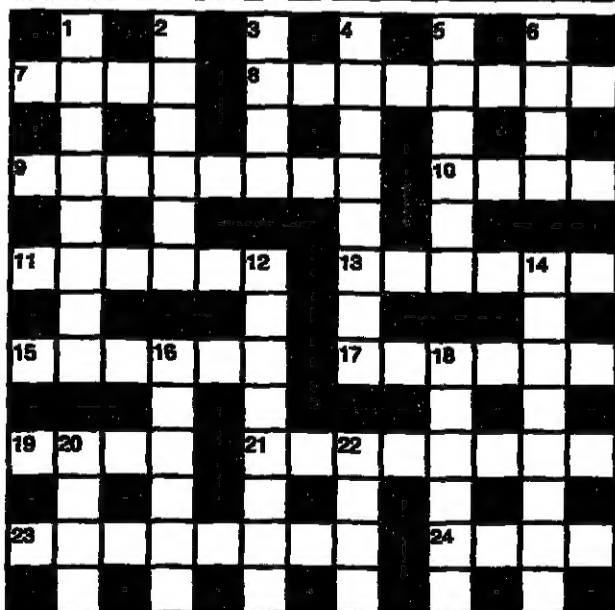
He did better at Southampton and his success in handling Matthew Le Tissier suggested that his man-management skills had improved. City proved otherwise, but his successor will be handed a poisoned chalice, with no money and great expectations at a big club that too often behaves like a small one.

25 YEARS OF MANAGERIAL COMINGS AND GOINGS AT MAINE ROAD

Year	Manager	Reason for leaving
1972-3	Malcolm Allison	Resigned
1973	Johnny Hart	Resigned
1973-4	Pan Saunders	Sacked
1974-9	Tony Book	Appointed General Manager
1979-80	Malcolm Allison	Sacked
1980-3	John Bond	Resigned
1983	John Benson	Resigned
1983-6	Billy McNoll	Resigned
1986-7	Jimmy Fritzell	Appointed General Manager
1987-9	Mel Moshin	Sacked
1990	Howard Kendall	Resigned
1990-3	Peter Reid	Sacked
1993-5	Brian Horton	Sacked
1995-6	Alan Ball	Resigned



TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD



TWO CROSSWORD 867
BRITISH MIDLAND
 10 Charger 11 Scholar
 19 Egghead 22 Obscure
 4 Accord 5 Twaddle
 15 Bivouac
 ing economy class to anywhere on
 international network is S Alexander.
 anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S
 Thurrock, Essex. All flights subject

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

12.9% APR

At this rate it pays to go direct.

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reason* with Hamilton Direct Bank, and take advantage of our fixed rates.

TYPICAL EXAMPLE	A LOAN OF £3,000			What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank
	APR [†]	48 monthly repayments	Total amount repaid	
Hamilton Direct Bank	12.9%	£152.26	£5,348.48	£572.38
Bancaplan Bank Plc*	12.9%	£151.35	£5,338.80	
National Westminster Bank plc*	12.9%	£150.56	£5,328.88	

*The rates quoted are for new customers. Existing customers may be eligible for a different rate. Rates are correct as at 22/08/98.

NEW REDUCED RATES

12.9% APR
on Loans from £5,000 to £10,000.

14.9% APR
on Loans from £500 to £4,999.

HAMILTON
Direct Bank
a division of HRC Bank plc

We have the money to hand.

Hamilton Direct Bank can be found on Web site: <http://www.hdbank.co.uk>

IF YOU ARE 24 OR OVER AND EARN £10,000 OR MORE, APPLY NOW ON
FREEPHONE 0800 30 3000

QUOTING REF 93005/241N

† Typical example: If you borrow £4,000 over 48 months at 12.9% APR, the monthly repayment is £119.38 and the total amount payable is £5,723.28.
*Not possible with Personal Loans. Loans below £1,000 are subject to approval. The above is not available in the listed 'Your nearest and best' branch. A source of credit is not available in certain areas. Loans are subject to credit checks. The repayment term is 48 months. You must not be under 24 years old and must be earning at least £10,000 per annum. The above is not available in certain areas. The above is not available in certain areas. The above is not available in certain areas.